

Iraq develops 'killer' missile

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Wednesday it had developed and tested a "killer" missile capable of destroying surface-to-surface missiles in mid-flight. "Medium-range surface-to-surface missiles were intercepted in mid-air and completely destroyed before hitting the ground," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Military Industries Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan as telling Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. He said Iraqi scientists had worked for several months to achieve "this world-wide scientific victory." Baghdad had also developed a killer missile capable of intercepting short-range, surface-to-surface missiles, he said. Baghdad Television showed the new killer missiles being fired and hitting other missiles. INA said Hussein had named the new long-range missile the Faw 1. Iraq's recapture of the southern Fao peninsula from Iran was the first in a string of Iraqi victories leading up to the Aug. 20 ceasefire between Tehran and Baghdad. Both Iraq and Iran have a stable of what they say are home-built missiles. Iraq battered Tehran and other Iranian cities early this year with long-range missiles, said by military experts to be extended-range versions of Soviet-designed Scud B's. Iran fired back at Baghdad with missiles capable of being used in a blanket barrage but unable to pinpoint specific targets.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

11 reported dead in Armenia

MOSCOW (AP) — Eleven people were killed in ethnic clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in at least five cities in Armenia, officials and sources said Wednesday. The deaths, reported by the official Armenian news agency Armenpress based on government information, raised the death toll in more than a week of ethnic violence to at least 18. Leon Azruyan, an editor at the news agency, said in a telephone interview that the 11 dead included 10 Azerbaijanis and one Armenian. The figure included clashes in cities throughout Armenia that occurred between Nov. 22-29, but only were reported officially Wednesday, he said. The Armenian was killed in the city of Goris in southeastern Armenia by Azerbaijanis who fired into a crowd of Armenians holding a rally. Azruyan said. Two other people were seriously wounded, and the attackers escaped, he said. In the city of Kalining in far northern Armenia, an Azerbaijani fired into a similar crowd of Armenians, "but they threw stones at him. One hit him in the head and killed him," Azruyan said. He said the other deaths occurred in the cities of Kirovakan, Krasnoselsk and Spitak in northern Armenia, but that there was no detailed information on how many died in each city, or what the circumstances were (see related story on page 8).

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Gandhi assassins to hang Friday

NEW DELHI (R) — Two Sikhs convicted of assassinating Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 will be executed Friday, official sources said Wednesday. Satwant Singh, 24, and Kehar Singh, 47, will be hanged in New Delhi's maximum security Tihar jail at 8 a.m. (0230 GMT), the sources said. They said President Ramaswamy Venkataraman had ended the condemned pair's chances of reprieve by rejecting a mercy petition. But a lawyer for Kehar Singh said he would go back to the high court Thursday to challenge the president's decision. Ram Jethmalani said his challenge would be based on the lack of guidelines for the president's discretionary powers of clemency and the fact that his client had been denied a personal hearing.

Murphy visits Pakistan, India

WASHINGTON (AP) — Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy has gone to South Asia to discuss the Pakistani election results and U.S. relations with neighboring India, U.S. officials said Tuesday. Murphy, who left Washington over the weekend, will also stop in Nepal and Bangladesh, as well as Kuwait, said State Department spokesman Charles Redman.

U.S. court convicts Red Army suspect

NEWARK (R) — A U.S. federal court has convicted a suspected Japanese Red Army guerrilla on bomb charges Tuesday after he was arrested driving what police called a "travelling bomb factory." Yu Kikumura, 36, was convicted on 12 counts related to transporting explosives with the intent to kill or injure and holding a passport reported stolen by a Tokyo businessman. He had waived his right to a jury trial.

Jayewardene calls for int'l observers

COLOMBO (AP) — President Junius R. Jayewardene wants international observers to monitor the Dec. 19 presidential election, a government statement said Wednesday. At the weekly cabinet meeting, Jayewardene asked Foreign Minister Shabul Hammed to contact international committees, such as the Commonwealth secretariat, and invite them to send observers to the polling, the statement said. Sinhalese militants have been demanding the government step down, arguing it is incapable of conducting a fair election. Opposition politicians and the powerful Buddhist clergy also have said that a caretaker government should oversee the balloting.

Demjanjuk appeal delayed until May

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli supreme court Wednesday delayed for six months the appeal of convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk following the suicide of his Israeli defence attorney, Israel Radio reported. Demjanjuk, a retired American auto worker, was sentenced in April to death. The postponement of his appeal comes one day after Dov Eitan, a 53-year-old former judge who joined Demjanjuk's defence team in August, died after hurting himself from the 15th floor of a high-rise office building in Jerusalem. Police ruled the death a suicide, but said Eitan left no note explaining his motives.

Iran sends message to Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message about Gulf peace talks to his Bahraini counterpart Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency said Wednesday. Iran's newly-appointed charge d'affaires to Bahrain delivered the written message, the agency said. Sheikh Mohammad was quoted as saying earlier this month his country hoped to upgrade diplomatic ties with Iran to ambassador level.

Charles, Diana to visit Kuwait, UAE

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana will visit Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates March 12-17, Buckingham Palace said Wednesday. Details of their itinerary were not available, said a palace spokeswoman.

Reuter reporter beaten up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Reuter correspondent whose press card was suspended by the Israeli government because of an article on undercover army units in the occupied West Bank was assaulted by unknown men outside his house this week. Reporter Steve Weizman said at least two men attacked him late Sunday night after he parked his car outside his house. One smashed his face into the car roof and held his head while another hit him in the kidneys. The assailants said nothing, made no attempt to take money or property and ran off after about one minute, Weizman said. Weizman, in a state of shock after the beating, did not report it to Israeli police until Tuesday. Police registered a complaint on the incident but said they saw no prospect of bringing the attackers to justice.

U.N. Cyprus envoy to visit Turkey

ANKARA (R) — The chief United Nations representative for Cyprus will visit Turkey Thursday to discuss moves to reunite the divided island, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. U.N. envoy Oscar Camillion and Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz will discuss last week's meeting between Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş in New York, ministry spokesman Inal Batu said.

Iraq to start troop demobilisation

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government will start large-scale troop demobilisation this week according to plans approved by the Iraqi leadership, reliable sources said Wednesday. They said the demobilisation will include reserve officers and soldiers who took part in the eight-year war with Iran. The sources gave no specific details but said the demobilisation would include "thousands." The ruling Revolutionary Command Council had earlier said it had ordered the Ministry of Defence to study the possibility of releasing some groups of officers from service Dec. 1.

Sudan to get \$300 million aid

PARIS (R) — A group of 10 industrialised nations will give Sudan about \$300 million to help reconstruction following devastating floods in August and September, the World Bank said Wednesday. The bank, which chaired a one-day meeting here attended by nine Western countries and Japan, said about a quarter of the money would come from reorganising existing aid commitments. At Sudan's request a World Bank-led mission visited the country and outlined an emergency reconstruction programme costing \$407 million, about 10 per cent of which would be financed by the Sudanese government.

Angola accord to be signed today

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Delegations from South Africa, Angola and Cuba gathered in Brazzaville Wednesday to prepare to sign a U.S.-brokered peace protocol covering a timetable for a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia. Officials of the host country Congo expressed confidence that the signing ceremony, the culmination of seven months of delicate negotiations, would go ahead as scheduled at 4 p.m. (1500 GMT) Thursday.

King, Mubarak review Arab issues, situation

CAIRO (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday reviewed the situation in the Arab region and exchanged views on matters of concern to Egypt and Jordan.

Following the meeting, which was attended by senior aides on both sides, Egyptian Minister of Information Safwat Sharif said the King briefed Mubarak on the outcome of his recent tour of Arab capitals in efforts designed to bolster Arab ranks.

The two leaders discussed developments in the Palestine question, reactions to the Palestine National Council (PNC) resolutions in Algiers and consulted on future steps to be taken in support of the Palestinian people, Sharif said.

He said that the King and Mubarak dwelt on coordination among Arab countries with a view to supporting the Algiers resolutions.

Osama Al Baz, Mubarak's political adviser, said the King's talks with Mubarak focused on the Palestinian problem.

"Egypt is doing everything it can to find a way out of the present crisis obstructing the (Middle East) peace process," Baz told reporters. He was referring to the United States' refusal last Saturday to grant Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa to address the U.N. General

Assembly in New York. Baz disclosed that Mubarak had also sent a message to U.S. President-elect George Bush about the Arafat visa problem.

Bush, who takes office next Jan. 20, has not commented on the visa denial.

Baz said: "As of now, we cannot say whether the American position will remain the same or will be reconsidered. But we feel the general trend at present is towards agreement on convening a special session on the Palestinian question at the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva on Dec. 13 or 14."

He said the United States "appears ready to go along" with the move.

Wednesday's Cairo meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oaseem and Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Nabil Al Nimer.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Atef Sedki, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and other senior officials.

The King arrived in Cairo from Sanaa, North Yemen, after a one-day visit during which he and

PNC decisions marked historic turning point, Masri tells U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

—The declaration of an independent Palestinian state by the Palestine National Council (PNC) earlier this month was a historical turning point in the course of Palestinian cause, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri told the U.N. General Assembly Monday.

Addressing the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People on the eve of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Masri, in his capacity

as chairman of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), that the PNC declaration, coupled with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 constituted "a tangible fact that cannot be ignored."

"The Palestinian struggle has acquired a new political leverage," Masri said in the address, read out on his behalf by Jordan's permanent delegate to U.N. Abdullah Salah. "A new wave of responsible action will start from this point through channels that the world has never known before," he said.

Masri called for serious work based on the PNC decisions towards settling the Palestinian problem through creating new situations where Israel retracts positions which the U.S. supported, such as its refusal to deal with the PLO.

The PLO's acceptance of Resolution 242 is a positive step towards peace in the region, Masri said.

U.N. diplomats to table compromise Shatt Al Arab plan to help peace talks

By Waleed Sadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a renewed bid to break the deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations, concerned U.N. diplomats will soon launch a compromise proposal over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which is at the centre of the stalled talks between the two sides after eight years of war, according to informed U.N. sources in New York.

The sources told the Jordan Times that the compromise formula involves setting up a special five-member commission made up of Iraqi and Iranian representatives and a U.N. official to launch dredging operations of the Shatt, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf.

The U.N. diplomats hope that the setting up of the commission will help advance the Iran-Iraq talks, which have made little progress since they began on Aug. 25, five days after a ceasefire went into effect on the battlefield, the sources said.

According to the sources, financing of the dredging operations will come from voluntary sources. They declined to elaborate.

Said one source: "The functions of the proposed commission will in no way infringe upon the legal rights of either party as far as the Shatt Al Arab is concerned. It will work independently and will have no bearing whatsoever on the ongoing peace talks between the two sides, except that it will help overcome the main hurdle that is blocking progress."

Iraq is insisting that the dredging of the Shatt, which was closed

immediately after the war broke out into the open in September 1980, should be given priority before further steps in implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, the basis for the Aug. 20 ceasefire and peace negotiations.

The Iraqi stand is based on the argument that the ceasefire has enabled Iran to use its Gulf ports without hindrance while Iraq is denied access to the Gulf since the Shatt Al Arab is clogged with at least 75 small and large vessels sunk in the first few days of the war.

It is estimated the dredging operations will take at least 18 months to complete and the life of the proposed commission will be three to five years — the period that the U.N. expects will take a firm peace agreement to be in place between the two sides — the sources told the Jordan Times.

The proposal has not yet been presented to either side, but the sources expect that it will be formally tabled before Iran and Iraq before the end of the present General Assembly session.

In essence, disputes over rights to the Shatt Al Arab are at the heart of the Iran-Iraq conflict. Iran insists that a 1975 agreement signed in Algiers by the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran — who was toppled by Iranian patriarch Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979 — and the Iraqi government defined the middle of the Shatt as the border between Iran and Iraq and gave equal rights to the waterway to both sides. Iraq, accusing Iran of not respecting the terms of the agreement, declared the document null and void shortly before the war broke out in 1980.

U.N. session move to Geneva almost certain

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

—Moving the General Assembly to Geneva to hear Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat poses financial and logistical problems but is virtually certain to happen, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

A decision is expected by early next week, with the session likely to take place in the Swiss city in the week of Dec. 12, they said.

The United States has refused to grant a visa to Arafat, who had sought to attend a General Assembly debate on the Palestine question at U.N. headquarters in New York.

At a closed-door meeting of non-aligned U.N. members Wednesday, Zaid Labih Terzi, the PLO representative, urged all of them to send delegates to Geneva for the debate.

Many small countries do not have missions there and the United Nations might be expected to pay for the transfer of delegates from New York, officials said.

The U.N. already pays the air fares of two delegates from each member state to attend the General Assembly in New York.

The world body was expected to approve late Wednesday an appeal to the United States to reverse its decision to deny a visa to Arafat (See page 2).

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, was reported to have asked the United States to rescind the ban on the PLO leader.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who issued the order last Saturday, said Tuesday and again Wednesday he would not reverse his decision, which President Reagan has endorsed.

A resolution to authorise the General Assembly's unprecedented transfer to Geneva is not expected before the end of the week, but because of financial implications this might not be adopted until about Tuesday, a senior official said.

The General Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary Committee would have to consider the cost aspects and make a report to the plenary body before a final decision was taken there.

(Continued on page 2)

Labour rebuffs Peres' bid to join coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies)

—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was rebuffed Wednesday by leaders of his Labour Party who narrowly rejected his bid to enter another four-year "unity" government led by the rival Likud party.

The party executive voted 61-57 to reject a proposal from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, whose rightist Likud won a slight edge Nov. 1, to form another coalition, party officials told Reuters.

Peres, the party leader, and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had warned Labour colleagues that failure to join the government could kill Arab-Israeli peace efforts and forfeit the reins of power to Likud and its right-wing and religious allies.

Party critics countered that the two leaders were only trying to salvage their political careers and argued that Labour would have to go into opposition or else lose its identity.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal of Labour said after the vote that his party, which won 39 seats in the 120-member parliament to Likud's 40 seats, would go into opposition.

"Shahal, an emerging young star in the party, told reporters: "In my view this is the end of a chapter."

He said: "We must examine why the elections went the way they did. We must encourage the emergence of a leadership in the Labour Party to represent our political views."

But other Labour members were hopeful Peres would still emerge as head of a government containing religious parties, who could give either Labour or Likud the 61-seat parliamentary majority needed to form a government.

"We will now seek to form a narrow government and Shimon Peres will be the next prime minister," said Abraham Burg who was elected to parliament in the hall.

The key is the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party. Agudat Israel, which earlier promised Shamir its support, said Wednesday it would turn to Labour because Likud had failed to keep its promises on religious legislation.

The party's five seats, and two seats belonging to the ultra-religious Degel Hatorah Party, could turn the tide in Peres's favour.

Labour Secretary-General Uzi Baram said: "Maybe we will try to form a narrow coalition, but it is difficult to do under the present circumstances. But we will not go into any government headed by Shamir."



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127 Jordanian companies to take part in Cairo fair

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total of 127 Jordanian companies and businesses will be represented at the Jordanian Industrial Fair to open in Cairo Thursday by Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Youssef Mostafa. This is the fourth Jordanian industrial fair to be held in Arab countries by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in order to promote the marketing of Jordanian products, according to the ministry's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

Earlier fairs were held in Riyadh, Tunis and Casablanca in Morocco and a total of \$8 million worth of products were sold directly to the public, or through contracts with Arab importers, Saqqaf noted.

The Cairo fair, he said, will sell up to \$2 million worth of products which include foodstuffs, paint, clothes, refrigerators, awnings, car filters, gas ranges, insulating material, oriental ornaments, marble and glass products.

The first day of the fair will be open for businessmen but the rest of the 10 days will be open to the public.

Saqqaf said Egypt is a major market for Jordanian products and many contracts for purchasing national commodities are expected to be concluded in the coming 10 days.

The Jordanian industrial fairs abroad aim to orient Arab citizens on the various Jordanian products which are of high quality, Saqqaf said.

He said another Jordanian industrial fair will be held in the United Arab Emirates in the coming months.

Under an agreement with Egypt, an Egyptian industrial fair will be held in Amman at a date to be fixed later on.

Saqqaf noted that a decision was taken to set up a permanent industrial fair for Jordanian products at Marj Al Hamam west of Amman in August 1989.

He said participation by Jordanian businessmen in the projected fair will be free of charge in a bid to encourage local production.

Japanese envoy opens workshop in Wadi Seer

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Japan's Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Watanabe opened a workshop at the Wadi Seer Vocational Training Centre Wednesday to train students in the maintenance of diesel engines and building equipment.

The workshop, which was set up with Japanese assistance, cost nearly \$400,000 and offers training to Palestinian refugee students.

The vocational training centre, which is run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) offers training to refugee children in various trades in a two-year or three-year courses.

Last year the Japanese government donated equipment and machinery worth \$320,000 for the auto-mechanics workshop and offered training in Japan for the centre's principal and eight instructors.

It also dispatched two experts to the centre to raise its training skills.

Jordan marks International Volunteer Day on Dec. 5

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with the international community, will observe International Volunteer Day on Dec. 5, in response to a resolution by the 4th United Nations General Assembly, according to a press release from the U.N. Development Programme in Jordan.

The first international celebration of volunteerism took place in 1986, with events that ranged from receptions in Australia to tree-planting in Rwanda.

Taking cue from the first International Volunteer Day celebrations, the 1987 International

Volunteer Day was marked by clearly improved planning and organising of local, regional and national-wide activities. For instance, in Jordan, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, a five day celebration, took place with public awareness campaigns, seminars and awards to charitable and voluntary societies.

This year, Dec. 5 will be an important day in stimulating more people, in all ways of life, to offer their services as volunteers, both at home and abroad, the press release said.

Attaches from Arab embassies visit RSS

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of counsellors, cultural attaches and experts affiliated to Arab embassies in Amman Wednesday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), met with its President Jawad Al-Anani and toured a number of sections.

Anani addressed the visitors calling for wider cooperation among Arab states in scientific research, to benefit Arab countries' development projects.

Anani also explained the role played by the RSS in serving the development process in Jordan and its cooperation with Arab and international scientific institutions.

The group visited the Mechanical Engineering Department, the Industrial Chemistry Department, the Computer Department, the Economics Research Department, the Electronic Services and Training Centre, the Building Research Centre and the Solar Energy Research Centre.

They were briefed by engineers and specialists on the various programmes associated with these departments.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the relevant institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ The French week to exhibit the best techniques used in the field of civil aviation at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ A cultural festival which includes a national book exhibition, an art exhibition, historical photos and documents exhibition, children's paintings and other activities at Anjara Public Library building Ajloun.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Fine Arts Department students at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of graphic art works which show costumes that represent Jordanian national heritage at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An exhibition on Aila, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Department of Antiquities, Registration and Research Centre.
- ★ A combined exhibit of watercolours, oils and prints including works by: Faysal Azami, Diana Shamounki, Rima Farah, and few other artists, with a display of wall hangings by Yvonne Yassine on popular Nursery Rhyme Themes at the Hotel Jordan Intercontinental Gallery.

BAZAAR

- ★ The Annual Charity Christmas Bazaar of the American Women of Amman will take place Friday at 11:00 a.m. at the American Community School with the participation of several Jordanian and international charities.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture by OPEC's Deputy Secretary General Dr. Fadel Al Jalil on OPEC's policies on the production and pricing of crude oil at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources — 5:00 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MASRI MEETS ERITREAN TEAM: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri met in his office Wednesday with a delegation representing the Eritrean Liberation Front led by Mr. Saleh Ahmad and reviewed with them the situation in Eritrea and current efforts by the front to end the conflict in the country. The delegation later had a meeting with the Information Ministry's Secretary General Trad Al Fayed. (Petra)

DAJANI LEAVES FOR TUNIS: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani left for Tunis Wednesday at the head of a delegation to attend the meetings of Arab ministers of interior due to open Thursday. The ministers will discuss inter-Arab cooperation in security matters, combating drug trafficking and resolutions passed by the Arab police chiefs who met in Tunis recently. The minister is accompanied by the three-day meeting by Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and two representatives from the PSD and the Ministry of Interior. (Petra)

CULTURAL FESTIVAL: Social Development Minister Dr. Fawaz Touqan Wednesday opened a five-day cultural festival at the Kremeah township. The festival includes His Majesty King Hussein's photos, books, cultural posters, and educational film shows. (Petra)

KANA'AN MEETS ENVOYS: Supply Minister Abdul Salam Kana'an Wednesday held separate meetings with the Kuwaiti Ambassador and the Omani Charge d'Affaires in Amman. During the two meetings, the minister discussed supply and trade relations and means to bolster them. (Petra)

NEW MAYORS APPROVED: The council of ministers approved the appointment of Mousa Khalaf Fayad Al Ma'ani, Sleiman Sayyah Al Hreishat, Mostafa Mousa Mostafa, and Sleiman Al Hasanat respectively as mayors of Ma'an, Tafila, Al Rwaishad, and Wadi Mousa. (Petra)

UM AL BASATIN MARKS KING'S BIRTHDAY: The Um Al Basatin district Wednesday held celebrations marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. Speeches were delivered praising the achievements attained during King Hussein's era, lauding his role in serving and defending the Arab causes, and the efforts he exerts to attain Arab reconciliation and accord. National songs and dances were also presented on this occasion. (Petra)

CHARITY BAZAAR: Under the patronage of Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback, the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief will hold a Charity Bazaar Friday Dec. 2 to mark the 20th anniversary of its services for the mentally handicapped in Jordan. The two-day bazaar will be held at the Swedish Home in Sweileh. (J.T.)

MAJALI TO ATTEND TRIPOLI TALKS: Prime ministry adviser Nasouh Al Majali will represent Jordan at the seven-day meetings of the board of directors and the general assembly of the Arab Union of Radio and Television which is due to open in Tripoli next week. (Petra)

GOVERNMENT APPROVES ENVOY: The government has approved Singapore's nomination of Tan King as its non-resident ambassador to Jordan. (Petra)

COOPERATION WITH SYRIA: Jordanian Ambassador in Damascus Nayif Al Hadid Wednesday discussed with Syrian Commerce and Foreign Trade Minister Mohammad Al Imadi exchange of medicine and agricultural products between the two countries. They also discussed means to develop and reactivate this cooperation for the interest of the two countries. (Petra)

MAFRAQ MEDICAL CENTRE: The first medical centre established in the southern quarter of Mafraq has begun to grant medical services to the quarter residents. The Mafraq Governorate health director said the centre will shortly be developed so as to provide integral services to citizens. He added that another health centre will shortly be opened at Al Hussein quarter in Mafraq. (Petra)

UNION OF ARAB NEWS AGENCIES: Jordan News Agency Director General Ali Al Safadi will represent Jordan in the seventeenth conference of the Union of Arab News Agencies due to open Saturday in Damascus. The two-day conference will discuss the best way to convey Arabic news items to various parts of the world and the coordination among the Arab news agencies at international conferences. (Petra)

DONATIONS FOR SUDAN: The chairman of subcommittees stemming from the local committee for solidarity with the Sudanese people in Ajloun district held a meeting and received the citizens' donations for the people of Sudan. (Petra)

MAN JAILED FOR 1 YEAR: The military court has sentenced Mustafa (Ahmad) Ali Al Jahri to one year imprisonment and payment of JD 500 for possession of dangerous drugs. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

AECU SECRETARY GENERAL RETURNS: Secretary General of the Arab Economic Unity Council (AECU) Hassan Ibrahim Wednesday returned to Amman at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Syria during which he discussed with senior Syrian officials matters pertaining to the AECU ministerial council's 50th session due to convene in Amman on Dec. 7. (Petra)

EGYPT TO REENTER AOAS: The Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) executive council Wednesday decided to end the suspension of Egypt's membership in the organisation, and to call on it to fully practice its membership rights. Concluding its sessions in Amman, the AOAS also elected Oman's and Sudan's representatives respectively as the AOAS's president and vice president. (Petra)

DENTISTS THANK JORDAN: The participants in the conference of the Arab Dentists' Supreme Council sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday at the conclusion of their meetings, thanking the King for Jordan's hosting of their conference. The participants wished the King good health and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

POLICE GRADUATES: Students enrolled in a prison supervision course Wednesday graduated at the Police Academy. Academy Director Brigadier Mohammad Al Bassoul addressed the graduates indicating that holding such a course is part of the Public Security Directorate's plan which is designed to raise the efficiency of employees at punitive institutions. He later presented certificates to 26 graduates. (Petra)

ADU COUNCIL MEETING ENDS: The five-day meetings of the Arab Dentists' Union Executive Council concluded in Amman Wednesday. A new executive council was elected for a four-year term during the meetings. The council also approved the union's budget and discussed a number of issues dealing with dentistry in the Arab World and the problems Sudan is currently facing. The council also re-elected Abdullah Al Sahi, from Iraq, as the union's secretary general. (Petra)

THE GALLERY

Invites you to a combined exhibit of watercolours, oils and prints including works by:

FIRYAL AZAMI RIMA FARAH
DIANA SHAMOUNKI AMMAR

and few other artists.
On display too at THE GALLERY as of today and through Thursday Dec. 8, 1988, applique wall-hangings by YVONNE YASSINE on Popular Nursery Rhyme Themes.
Vian 12 and Nadine 14, artists to be, will show some of their works.

THE GALLERY: Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, Amman, Tel. 641361 ext. 2183. Open daily 9-7. Closed Friday.

NRA director general returns from talks in Canada

Jordan seeks more assistance from Canada in oil exploration

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan is seeking further assistance from Canada in its current oil prospecting programmes; and has agreed with Ottawa on holding a general meeting in February to present the oil situation in the Kingdom, according to Natural Resources Authority (NRA) Director General Kamal Jreisat.

In a statement upon returning from a week-long visit to Canada, Jreisat said that discussions with Canadian government officials focused on Jordan's request to increase to 32 million Canadian dollars a 19 million dollar grant which was earlier announced to help the Kingdom in its oil prospecting efforts.

Jreisat discussed with the Canadians the prospect of extending the grant agreement for one more year to allow Canadian companies to conduct oil exploration programmes.

Last year the Canadian government announced a 19 million Canadian dollar grant to the Kingdom and said that the Petro-Canada International Agency for Cooperation will work through 1989 on seismic exploration activities in the Risheh area, north east of Jordan.

The original agreement provides for the agency to supply equipment, bring in experts and conduct oil exploration training and will invite Canadian oil companies to participate in exploration programmes through a production-sharing arrangement.

Jreisat said he discussed in Canada the question of inviting Canadian companies to dig for oil in Jordan and agreed with officials on convening a conference at the Canadian city of Calgary, to be attended by representatives of Canadian oil companies.

At the coming meeting, Jreisat noted, a full report on oil activities in Jordan will be presented and discussion of possible agreements will be made.

He said that Canadian companies to be contracted for the work will be prospecting on similar basis of agreements signed earlier with American and Belgian companies.

Last week Japan National Oil Corporation and the NRA signed a two-year agreement, paving the way for the corporation to conduct an oil prospecting programme in the eastern areas of Jordan.

Jordan at present produces some 500 barrels of oil per day from its Hamzeh oil fields but imports nearly 60,000 barrels every day from Saudi Arabia and Iraq to meet domestic demand.

Oil exploration in the Risheh region near the Iraqi border did not reveal the presence of any oil but disclosed the existence of huge deposits of gas which is being exploited by NRA and the Jordan Electricity Authority for electricity generation.

Meeting reviews priorities in development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and the ministers of agriculture, supply and education were among the main speakers at the final session of the comprehensive development seminar which was concluded in Amman Tuesday evening.

The seminar, which involved development councils in the north, south and central regions of the Kingdom, reviewed development projects, discussed areas that would be given priorities and recommended new ideas related to the implementation of schemes in various sectors.

Addressing the final session, Prince Hassan said recommendations taken by the development council meetings should be put into immediate effect.

He urged the private sector to shoulder its responsibility side by side with the public sector, and said that the coming stage makes it incumbent upon all parties to participate positively and constructively to the development of the country.

Prince Hassan announced that a general meeting will be held in March 1989 to continue the dialogue on development subjects.

Commenting on the deliberations, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said that the government was striving to stimulate the animal husbandry process, and a committee for the Jordanian Farmers Association will take up subjects related to this question Saturday.

Minister of Supply Abdul Salam Kanaan commented on olive oil and meat both of which are in great demand in the local market.

He said that the Ministry of Supply tends to import limited amounts of oil whenever it was necessary and there was shortage of this commodity on the markets.

The minister announced that a tender has been announced for the importation of frozen meat, as a gradual reduction of lean meat imports will be made in view of the huge amounts paid for this commodity and in a bid to encourage local stock breeders to increase the output.

Regional seminar calls for exchange of expertise

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional seminar on the role of educational institutions in simplifying and disseminating science and technology throughout rural areas in the Arab World ended at Mu'ta University Wednesday, emphasising the need for exchange of expertise on all levels in that field among Arab countries.

The seminar, which was jointly organised by Mu'ta University and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), also concluded that simplifying and disseminating science and technology should be the responsibility of all concerned parties rather than one single party.

The implementation of pioneering joint ventures in several Arab countries and arriving at the optimum results of such ventures, taking into consideration the specificity of each and every Arab country, was another resolution adopted by the seminar which was under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Jordan to take 'serious' steps for projected Aqaba tourist camp

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Serious and well planned steps will be taken shortly towards the creation of the projected 'Tourist Camp' along the southern coast of Aqaba to meet the growing needs of increasing numbers of visitors to the port city, and an enlarged meeting will be held next month to discuss the final plans for the project, Minister of Tourism Zubair Ajlouni announced Wednesday.

The minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the camp was needed to stimulate the tourism industry in general and to accommodate huge numbers of visitors to the city, especially in the winter season.

The Dec. 11 meeting, to be chaired by Ajlouni, will involve the representatives of the Social Security Corporation, the Aqaba Region Authority, the Jordan Hotels Association, the Jordan Travel Agents Association and other organisations concerned with tourism, the minister noted.

He said that speedy solutions for the problems impeding the development of tourism in Aqaba, the establishment of the camp on the southern coast of the city and other important issues will be dealt with at the coming meeting and recommendations about final plans will be submitted to the council of ministers for approval.

Ajlouni said the project was expected to offer excellent tourist facilities for the visitors from Jordan and abroad, as well as the local inhabitants.

The Aqaba Region Authority earlier announced the allocation of a 350 dunum land for the projected camp and the Social Security Corporation, which is responsible for the Tourist Investment Corporation, allocated JD 500,000 for its construction according to Petra.

Her Majesty Queen Noor paid a visit to Aqaba in August and discussed the establishment of the tourist camp in Aqaba. Other projects discussed by the Queen with local official included a yacht club and the Sultan Qaboos Estate, which will entail the construction of 600 chalets that will be sold to Jordanians and non-Jordanians.

In 1987, the Ministry of Tourism recorded 1.9 million non-Jordanian arrivals in the Kingdom. These came from Arab states, U.S., West Germany, Finland, Italy, the United Kingdom and other European countries, Asia and the Far East.

The Ministry of Tourism announced last April that organisers of tourist groups from Finland are to operate weekly air trips from Helsinki to Aqaba during this winter season at the rate of two flights a week.

Council of ministers approve agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The council of ministers Wednesday approved an agreement with Indonesia on cooperation in religious affairs, an economic agreement with France and a health cooperation agreement with Libya.

The ministers, meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy

Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi, also approved of a protocol on economic, industrial and technical cooperation with Turkey, as well as an amendment to a Jordanian-Turkish agreement on air transport. According to the amendment Royal Jordanian will increase its weekly flights to Istanbul and Ankara to five in the summer season.

Seminar calls for establishing trade data bank

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day seminar on import management and maintenance which concluded Wednesday, called for the establishment of a data bank to take charge of gathering and publishing information on matters related to trade, importers and exporters and measures pertaining to the import-export operations.

The seminar, which was organised by the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce in cooperation with the International Trade Centre which is affiliated to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development, recommended also that a guideline be prepared for each country in the Arab World providing all information related to trade among Arab states and between the Arab World and the foreign countries.

The recommendations called on Arab governments to introduce amendments to existing legislations, to allow for a unified Arab trading system and to conduct studies on the establishment of a pan-Arab company which will be entrusted with maintaining control on import and export operations and advise on pertinent matters.

The recommendations called on Arab states to give due attention to training personnel in import management and maintenance, to organise regional seminars and to link existing Arab data banks in an enlarged network providing all available information to importers and exporters.

CHARITY BAZAAR

Under the patronage of His Excellency the Ambassador for Sweden, Mr. Lars Lonnback, The Swedish Organization for Individual Relief has the pleasure to invite the public to its Bazaar to mark the 20th Anniversary of its services for the mentally retarded in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

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RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

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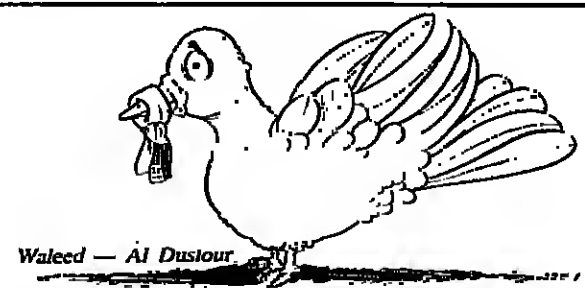
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Abuse of privilege

OTHER than being illegal and politically short-sighted, the Shultz decision to deny Chairman Yasser Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations General Assembly is seriously flawed by the use of the venue of the United Nations headquarters in New York as an instrument for conducting U.S. foreign policies. As a sovereign nation Washington has available to it all sorts of policy tools to exercise its policy objectives as regrettable as some might be, but the use of the physical presence of the United Nations on its territory should not be one of them. If this unfortunate trend in U.S. U.N. diplomacy continues, the international community is duty bound to search for remedies to this ludicrous situation. In any case the international organisation cannot and should not be hostage to any member state big or small.

When it was decided to construct the United Nations building in New York all parties recognised that the benefit ensuing from that decision is mutual to both the host country, the United States, as well as to other U.N. member states. In other words, the U.S. did not do the nations of the world a special favour. If it were not politically and economically beneficial to the United States to house the U.N. it would not have offered to host it in the first place. The U.S. government is therefore called upon to honour its legal and political commitments to the international organisation by keeping it free of all kinds of pressure and intimidation.

The latest case of Chairman Arafat is not the first of its kind where U.S. governments chose to exploit the site of the U.N. as a hostage to its whims. The repetition of such behaviour is putting the future of the U.N. at risk. If Mr. Shultz thinks he has a God-given mission to moralise on who may or may not address the U.N. body, the end result would become anything but what was envisaged by the framers of the U.N. Charter. Not even the U.S. government envisaged such a role for itself when it participated in the negotiation that led to the establishment of the United Nations. To think otherwise would mean that Washington has a special veto power over and above the veto power that it enjoys in the Security Council. That is not the kind of United Nations that we promoted and joined.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Wednesday discussed King Hussein's visits to North Yemen and Egypt for consultations on Arab affairs and means of bolstering the pan-Arab stand. The two visits constitute another stage in the King's current endeavours to deal with the consequences of Washington's decision to bar PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat from entering the United States to deliver Palestine's address to the U.N. General Assembly, the paper noted. The King is clearly spearheading Arab countries efforts to transfer the U.N. discussion to Geneva for the U.N. meeting on Palestine and is coordinating Jordan stand in regard to the question with the Arab leaders. It added. The monarch is also concerned with the situation in Lebanon which will be on the agenda of his talks with the leaders of North Yemen and Egypt, the paper continued. It said that this intensified Jordanian offensive is bound to contribute positively to the PLO's endeavours and to help the Arab Nations maintain the momentum in the process of ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily columnist Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Washington's decision to bar Arafat from entering New York to deliver Palestine's address to the U.N. General Assembly was an attempt to do harm to the Palestine cause. This move has backfired and prompted all world nations to rally behind Palestine and the Arab World's firm stand and demand that the General Assembly's session be held in Geneva to enable Arafat to present Palestine's case, says the writer. It is good that the Arab states stood firm together in confrontation with the U.S. attitude since an arrogant and hostile stance requires a courageous and firm response to thwart Washington's designs, the writer continues. Let us hope, he adds, that the Arab states will maintain the struggle with such enthusiasm because they will need their cohesion and their solidarity for the other battles that should lead to an end to Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Al Dastour daily discussed King Hussein's message to the U.N. committee on the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people sent Tuesday. The message which voices the Kingdom's all out support for the Palestinian people and the PLO represented a fresh call on the world organisation to help the oppressed people regain their rights and end Israel's occupation, the paper noted. It said that the message which coincided with the U.N. anniversary of the Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian People should urge the world organisation to intensify its efforts at all levels to serve the cause of peace.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented also on King Hussein's message to the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian people. It was a message voicing the Kingdom's concern over the Palestinians and their rights in the face of Israel's continued oppression and injustice, the paper said. Jordan has done a great deal for Palestine and in the course of its efforts has been exposed to pressures and serious hardships but the Jordanian people have offered sacrifices not only for Palestine but for other Arab causes, the paper said. The King's message, the paper added, explained the reasons behind Jordan's severance of legal ties with the West Bank and reaffirmed at the same time the country's determination to back the Palestinians' efforts and their struggle until they regain their lands.

Shultz decision muddles Mideast situation for Bush

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The U.S. decision to bar PLO leader Yasser Arafat from a U.N. meeting in New York has pushed president-elect Bush into a less flexible position as he reads to deal with Arabs and Israelis, experts say. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was denied a visa on Saturday to address the U.N. General Assembly, on grounds his group poses a terrorist threat to Americans.

The State Department said on Monday the decision by Secretary of State George Shultz was "firm and final," in spite of criticism by Arab countries and many of America's allies.

Bush, who had no role in the

decision, finds himself caught in a state of limbo — preparing to become president if the United States while still carrying out the subservient task of vice president.

Until January 20, when he takes office, Bush can only go along with the decisions of President Reagan and the key officials of his administration — many of whom abhor the pragmatic willingness to compromise that Bush often follows.

Asked whether the next president agrees with the ban that has caused an uproar in the Arab World and among many U.S. allies in the United Nations, spokeswoman Sheila Tate gave reporters a terse reminder of Bush's position.

"The vice president was informed of the State Department decision," she said. "As a mem-

ber of the administration he stands by the decision."

Several analysts said Bush's position was understandable, but that the Middle East legacy he inherits has been significantly complicated by the rehuff to Arafat.

"This put the Bush administration in a bad position," said Shireen Hunter, an expert on the Middle East for the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"If Arafat had come and spoken and gone home, everything would have been forgotten," she said. "Now it will be on Arafat's mind every day."

Even before Arafat's visa denial, Middle East factors had begun changing for Bush since his November 8 election victory.

The Palestine National Council

(PNC) in Algiers declared on November 15 an independent State of Palestine, which more than 50 nations have recognised.

The PNC also endorsed U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, which implicitly recognise Israel's right to exist, but qualified them with demands for Palestinian self-determination and national rights.

Terrorism expert Neil Livingstone, author of the book "The PLO's War Against the United States," defended Shultz's decision, which he said "puts the United States clearly on record" against terrorism.

"I think the PLO is trying to have it both ways," Livingstone said. "On the one hand they are trying to gain political respect and on the other hand they are engaging in acts of terrorism."

He argued that if the United States permitted Arafat to come to the United Nations, Washington would have suffered "a setback as great as the Iran-contra affair, in demonstrating to the world that we really didn't stand behind our statements against terrorism."

In the 1985-86 Iran-contra scandal, U.S. officials publicly denounced terrorism while trying to obtain the release of American hostages in Lebanon by selling arms to Iran.

State Department officials have said Shultz's decision was based on his personal disgust with terrorism and was not borne out of any frustration at his inability to push the Middle East peace process forward.

Several experts said Shultz's decision, endorsed by Reagan,

fuels Arab scepticism of the United States and put added pressure on Bush.

"I just can't understand how we could have done something which so works against our interests, and...boxes in the new president, George Bush," said Robert Hunter of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"Right now American credibility on peacemaking has taken another bad jolt," he said, adding that Bush will be "under more pressure to act perhaps... (before) he is ready."

"It's not about whether this was wrong, it was stupid," he said. "What we have done is given Yasser Arafat...a fantastic bonanza of public relations and politics."

purchase or expropriate private property and use city-owned land to build new low-income housing projects in urban areas existing shanty towns by providing paved streets, electricity, water and all the other public services the poor have a right to," she said.

Sao Paulo has nearly 11 million residents and sprawls over 597 square miles, larger than Los Angeles. Its annual budget is \$6 billion, more than most Brazilian states.

To help her run this huge metropolis, Ms. Erundina said she plans to encourage the creation of grassroots "neighbourhood councils" to identify local problems and suggest solutions.

"They will be autonomous groups that will act like lobbies to influence city hall and the municipal legislature. The people's voice will be heard," she said.

Political analysts say the election results favoured leftist candidates in the race for the presidency in next year's scheduled elections, the first popular balloting for president since 1960.

Sammy's administration has grown increasingly unpopular amid charges of corruption, reduced purchasing power and record inflation of more than 1,000 per cent.

Workers Party President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva already has declared his candidacy. Another contender is Leonel Brizola of the Democratic Labour Party, which elected mayor Marcello Alencar in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's No. 2 city.

"We are not so naive to think that capitalism will end when and if a Socialist government is established," Silva said.

But he added, "capitalists must understand that if they and the system they defend want to survive there has to be a better distribution of wealth."

strides in its campaign against Communist guerrillas by adopting a broader-based counter-insurgency strategy which coordinated civilian and military action. Philippine tribal groups have also complained about abuses, saying they are caught in the middle of the fight between jungle-based insurgents and the military.

The Amnesty International paper said although the Communist New People's Army had been reported to torture captives "the ill-treatment or execution of soldiers by rebels cannot ever justify the use of torture against detainees."

President Aquino was swept to office in February 1986 by a "people power" revolt which promised an end to the corruption and human rights abuses of the 20-year-rule of Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino, who marked her first 1,000 days in office earlier this month, restored democracy, ended a free press and is helping economic recovery which has reduced inflation and boosted growth.

The 55-year-old president is battling back prices of basic commodities in the latest phase of her campaign to bring the fruits of recovery to the 60 million people of the heavily-indebted Pacific nation.

At a meeting with businessmen Friday she won their agreement to reduce the prices of cooking oil, sugar, evaporated milk, canned fish and medicines, after earlier reducing petrol prices and transport costs.

But rights groups charge that the disappearances of leftist sympathisers that used to take place under Marcos are still going on. One group said around 100 people had disappeared nationwide this year and were believed abducted by soldiers.

Aquino and the military denied soldiers were involved. Senator John Osmena, who moved the senate resolution, said there were kidnappings, mysterious disappearances, and killings of human rights lawyers, labour leaders and activists.

But senator Aquilino Pimentel said some people tended "to magnify human rights violations."

There were more violations under Marcos and people now had more freedom to go to court to seek redress for grievances, he said.

Storm clouds gathering as EC summit eyes road to 1992

By Simon Alterman
Reuter

BRUSSELS — When European Community leaders held their summit meeting in Rhodes next weekend, the atmosphere on the Mediterranean island is likely to match the weather — cool with a threat of heavy storms.

There should be bright intervals too, for the community is ending 1988 in a far healthier state than anyone dared to predict after an acrimonious summit in Copenhagen a year ago.

The 12 EC economies have survived last year's stock market crash with unexpected ease. The community's internal financial crisis has been resolved — its budget is even in surplus. Most important of all, the drive to create a giant EC market without internal trade barriers after 1992 is building up speed.

"Europe is on the move. There is no question about that," Lord Cockfield, EC internal market commissioner and architect of the 1992 campaign, said in a speech in London last week.

"Industry is now investing, industry is now re-organising on the basis of 1992," he added.

But, as ever in community affairs, dark clouds are gathering on the horizon.

A trade war with the new U.S. administration is looming from Jan. 1 over an EC ban on meat treated with growth hormones — "an awful way to start a new relationship," according to Washington's ambassador to the community, Alfred Kingston.

The other major threat on the international front is the swelling chorus of complaints from the EC's trading partners around the world that Brussels is framing the rules for 1992 in a protectionist fashion.

"This concept of fortress Europe is not just a catchword for journalists. It's reality," Louis Hughes, vice-president of the European subsidiary of the U.S. car giant General Motors, told a conference in Brussels last week.

"(1992) is going to be a very protectionist business."

The 12 EC heads of government will try once again to calm such fears at their meeting Friday and Saturday by issuing a statement on the community's role in the world.

"The 1992 Europe will not be a fortress Europe but a partnership Europe," a draft of the statement says. But mere words are unlikely to be enough to silence the EC's critics.

On the internal front, the path to 1992 is also littered with obstacles. The EC governments are deeply split over how far and how fast European political and economic integration should proceed. Not for the first time, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is in the thick of the argument.

The debate has crystallised around a hard-hitting speech she delivered in an audience of EC dignitaries in the Belgian city of Bruges in September.

The speech attacked other governments and the European Commission for pushing what she considers to be a Socialist and corporatist programme for Europe instead of the free-enterprise, deregulatory model on which the "Thatcher revolution" is based.

"We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them reimposed at a European level with a European super-state exercising a new dominance from Brussels," she said.

She has since announced that she neither wants nor expects to see a European central bank or common EC currency in her lifetime and has repeated scathing criticisms of Cockfield's proposals to bring indirect taxes into line in the EC for 1992.

Her remarks were seen as a personal attack on both commissioner president Jacques Delors and Cockfield himself, whom she has decided to replace at the commission from January.

But they also upset many of her fellow prime ministers, who said publicly that they disagreed with her.

Diplomats say these differences will undoubtedly surface in Rhodes when the summit discusses a commission report on progress towards 1992 and sets priorities for some 150 EC laws, including the taxation issue, which remain to be passed by then.

But few are predicting a major row, especially since Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, the summit host and chairman, is still recovering from heart surgery.

"It is going to be a calm summit," said one Greek minister. "You cannot have a crisis because there is no issue which is ripe for a crisis. But I can see a crisis in Madrid on the monetary and central bank issues," he added.

The EC summit in Madrid next June will consider a report by a committee of central bank governors and experts chaired by Delors which was asked at the community summit in Hanover last June to recommend "concrete steps" towards EC monetary union.

Sources close to Delors said that having replied to Thatcher's Bruges speech with some barbed remarks about "disorderly voice" and backsliding chauvinism, "he was not looking for a showdown with the British prime minister in Rhodes."

But they said he would continue to stress the importance of the "social dimension" to the single market, especially worker participation on company boards and EC-wide legislation on workers' rights which are both anathema to Thatcher.

Diplomats said Delors had no choice because Greece is about to hand over the rotating presidency of EC ministerial meetings to two more Socialist governments — Spain for the first six months of 1989 and France for the rest of the year.

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A month-long spate of incidents involving U.S. military forces has touched a raw nerve in Japan, provoking outraged newspaper editorials and a sharp protest from the government.

On Okinawa, the southern island where 35,000 U.S. troops jostle for training space with 1.2 million Japanese residents, civilians complain that houses were hit by bullets in October and two tear-gas canisters exploded at a nightclub one Saturday night, sending scores of people into the street, coughing and choking.

The tear-gas incident, which U.S. marine corps authorities said was still under investigation, followed the rushed dismissal of a U.S. navy skipper whose ship embarrassed the navy command by firing practice shells that hit some 300 metres from a Japanese coast guard vessel.

The navy immediately expressed regret for the shelling, which occurred in Japanese waters off the Boso peninsula near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, but the Japanese government reacted strongly.

Japan's foreign ministry lodged a protest with the U.S. embassy, while some of the country's major newspapers published blistering editorials.

By Stan Lehman
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO, Brazil — When Luiz Erundina, a hard-line Marxist and former social worker, was elected mayor of Sao Paulo last month, stock markets fell and political analysts predicted possible trouble for Brazil's 3½-year-old civilian government.

But Ms. Erundina, a grandmotherly woman who says her party's goal is to establish a Socialist government in Brazil, has promised she will govern the sprawling city within "the current capitalist rules of the game."

"We want to change the way people think in this country so that the poor and dispossessed can also have equal opportunities," the 53-year-old mayor-elect, an upset victim Nov. 15 on the ticket of the leftist Workers Party, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

But she added, "I won't antagonise the wealthy, whose support I hope to obtain."

Ms. Erundina, a former Sao Paulo city councilwoman and state representative, was the surprise winner over heavily favoured Paulo Maluf, a wealthy businessman and military-backed presidential candidate in 1985, in nationwide municipal elections.

Ms. Erundina never married "because marriage and motherhood would interfere with my political education and militancy," she said recently.

Born into a poor farming family in the northeastern state of Paraíba, Ms. Erundina was the sixth of 10 children. After completing second grade, she was forced to go to work so her younger siblings could study and only went back to school later to get a two-year degree in social services at the Paraíba school for

By Jeremy Clift
Reuter

MANILA — President Corason Aquino is scoring new successes on the economic front by rolling back prices but is coming under increasing fire on her human rights record.

The Philippine senate has ordered a probe into allegations of human rights abuses after passing a resolution last Friday accusing Aquino's government of "benign neglect of human rights."

The Manila Chronicle published a front-page report on Monday charging that there was torture and ill-treatment of prisoners by the military, although not on a systematic scale.

It quoted a paper from the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International as saying that unless the

government took immediate steps, the use of torture might become widespread.

Mary Concepcion Bautista, chairman of the government's commission on human rights, defended the record of Aquino's government saying it had investigated 2,165 cases over the past two years.

Some 170 cases involving human rights have been filed against policemen and soldiers, although government took immediate steps, the use of torture might become widespread.

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Marxist mayor to govern centre of Brazilian capitalism

social services. She started her political career in the 1960s as a militant in the peasant leagues, a leftist-oriented agrarian reform movement born in Brazil's impoverished north-east and abolished by the right-wing military government that took power after a 1964 military coup.

Founding a party

In the late 1960s, Ms. Erundina was named education secretary of Campina Grande, the second largest city in Paraíba. But, because of what she said was political persecution, she left in 1971 to move to Sao Paulo, where she worked for nine years as a social worker for the city government until throwing herself into work with the new Workers Party, which she helped to found.

Her victory in the recent elections highlighted sharp gains by leftist candidates, who won mayorships in nine of 24 state capitals and in many smaller cities throughout this vast country.

The big loser was the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement party of President Jose Sarney, the first civilian president since a 21-year military government turned over power in 1985.

The first reaction in political and business circles was alarm. Markets slumped, and the price of gold and black-market dollars soared. The conservative daily O Estado de S. Paulo warned of the danger of a "red

axis" of leftist-controlled city governments in Brazil's more developed south.

However, the shock lasted only a few days. Markets recovered, and top generals, who still wield considerable behind-the-scenes influence, said they accepted the election results.

"The people wanted a change and our party was seen as the best instrument to achieve this change," said Ms. Erundina.

The bespectacled, soft-spoken Ms. Erundina said the party hasn't defined the kind of Socialism it wants to implant in Brazil "because we don't want to import one of the existing models which for us won't work. We don't want the kind of Socialism that leads to totalitarianism."

One of the most pressing problems the new mayor will face when she takes office Jan. 1 is the growing number of land invasions by millions of poor squatters. Ms. Erundina has backed squatters since the 1960s when she was a land reformer with the peasant leagues in her native northeastern state of Paraíba.

Function of property

"When more than 3 million people are homeless or live in substandard housing and with some 40 per cent of the city's land empty, then the social function of property must predominate over the concept of private property," Ms. Erundina said.

"Little by little we plan to

Aquino scores economic successes, but hit on rights record

government took immediate steps, the use of torture might become widespread.

Mary Concepcion Bautista, chairman of the government's commission on human rights, defended the record of Aquino's government saying it had investigated 2,165 cases over the past two years.

Some 170 cases involving human rights have been filed against policemen and soldiers, although

57 were dismissed because of a lack of witnesses, difficulties in finding suspects or withdrawal of the case by victims.

She told a weekend news conference that many cases involving alleged military abuse were committed as part of the government's counter-insurgency campaign against Communist rebels.

Defence Minister General Fidel Ramos said in an interview that the government was making

Incidents mar U.S. military reputation in Japan

By Larry Thorson
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A month-long spate of incidents involving U.S. military forces has touched a raw nerve in Japan, provoking outraged newspaper editorials and a sharp protest from the government.

On Okinawa, the southern island where 35,000 U.S. troops jostle for training space with 1.2 million Japanese residents, civilians complain that houses were hit by bullets in October and two tear-gas canisters exploded at a nightclub one Saturday night, sending scores of people into the street, coughing and choking.

The tear-gas incident, which U.S. marine corps authorities said was still under investigation, followed the rushed dismissal of a U.S. navy skipper whose ship embarrassed the navy command by firing practice shells that hit some 300 metres from a Japanese coast guard vessel.

The navy immediately expressed regret for the shelling, which occurred in Japanese waters off the Boso peninsula near the entrance to Tokyo Bay, but the Japanese government reacted strongly.

Japan's foreign ministry lodged a protest with the U.S. embassy, while some of the country's major newspapers published blistering editorials.

The Mainichi Shimbun daily said the shelling was "the result of the unbelievable slack discipline and lack of moral concepts of the U.S. forces in Japan."

Said the Asahi Shimbun: "It would definitely be risky if things of this sort were left as they are. Even a single miscalculation would endanger human life. Besides, it would gravely affect the ties in genuine friendship that exist between the United States and Japan."

About 64,000 U.S. troops are in Japan under a security treaty that obliges the United States to help defend this country, with an added major role in security for the whole of northeast Asia. The treaty also obliges Japan to provide free of charge the bases and training areas needed by the U.S. forces.

The vast majority of the Japanese support the U.S.-Japan security treaty and the country's anti-war constitution, which together give the United States a prime role in defending Japan.

But this country never was occupied by foreign troops until its defeat in World War II, and there is a sensitivity to the U.S. presence.

Leftists demonstrate against the visits of U.S. ships that may be carrying nuclear arms, and the general public reacts strongly when there is a dangerous accident involving U.S. forces or

when U.S. bases appear to be encroaching on the flow of Japanese life.

The U.S. navy base at Yokosuka, by the mouth of Tokyo Bay, wants to build over 800 apartments but faces stubborn resistance from the neighbouring town of Zushi, which has repeatedly elected a mayor who opposes taking forest land for the military housing.

On Okinawa, prefectural Gov. Junji Nishime has blamed a string of troubles on "something wanting in the U.S. military's chain of command or a decline of discipline."

U.S. commanders on the southern island are reportedly reviewing safety measures following a forest fire that erupted in a training area in October and the discovery about the same time that a residential area near a marine corps firing range had been hit by bullets even though firing on the range is supposed to be in the opposite direction.

EN BREF

Arafat: pas de visa américain



Yasser Arafat, qui devait se rendre à New York les 1er et 2 décembre pour parler devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations-Unies, s'est vu refuser son visa d'entrée le 27 novembre par les autorités américaines. Le président de l'OLP voulait, à la suite de la déclaration d'indépendance, demander un siège à part entière pour l'Etat palestinien aux Nations-Unies. Le secrétaire d'Etat américain George Shultz a justifié ce refus en plaçant qu'Arafat apportait son soutien à des actes de terrorisme contre des citoyens américains, commis par l'OLP. Les Etats arabes ont demandé le report de l'Assemblée générale à Genève. Le président de l'Assemblée, Dante Caputo, a accueilli favorablement cette requête. Depuis 1974, l'OLP a un statut d'observateur aux Nations-Unies.

Paris-bras de fer

Face au durcissement de la grève dans les transports parisiens qui mardi, pour la deuxième journée consécutive, paralysait une grande partie du trafic entre Paris et sa banlieue, le gouvernement français a choisi la fermeté et désigné son adversaire, CGT, syndicat d'obédience communiste.

Alors que deux lignes du réseau express régional (RER) qu'empruntent chaque jour plus d'un million de voyageurs de la région parisienne étaient complètement bloquées, le gouvernement a décidé de faire appel aux canons de l'armée pour assurer une partie du trafic, une mesure propre à frapper une opinion publique de plus en plus lassée par les grèves à répétition depuis près de trois mois.

Derrière cette "partie de bras de fer" entre le "gouvernement socialiste et la CGT se profile, selon les commentateurs, l'affrontement classique avant des échéances électorales, en l'occurrence les élections municipales de mars prochain, entre socialistes et communistes. (AFP)

Cousteau académicien

L'océanographe Jacques-Yves Cousteau, un des Français les plus populaires dans le monde, a été élu jeudi à l'Académie française, qui a également admis dans ses rangs la seconde femme académicienne en plus de trois siècles d'existence. Le commandant Cousteau, explorateur, cinéaste et écrivain âgé de 78 ans, et l'historienne Jacqueline de Romilly, universitaire spécialiste de la Grèce antique de 75 ans, ont été élus dès le premier tour pour remplacer deux personnalités décédées, respectivement le médecin Jean Delay et le dramaturge André Roussin. Ils prennent place parmi les 40 "immortels" en habit vert de l'Académie.

Hervé Bourges à la tête de RMC

Hervé Bourges, ancien président de la chaîne de télévision TF1, a été nommé le 18 novembre directeur général de Radio Monte-Carlo. Il remplace Pierre-Edouard Caron, qui avait démissionné au début du mois car la privatisation de RMC, souhaitée par le gouvernement précédent, ne s'est jamais faite. Personnalité proche de la gauche, Bourges, 55 ans, a notamment été rédacteur en chef du magazine Témoinage Chrétien, conseiller technique du président algérien et porte-parole du directeur général de l'UNESCO, M. N'bow. (d'après AFP)

Le saviez-vous?

Faucon vole

Extrait du règlement de la Royal Jordanian Airlines: "R.J. n'accepte pas d'animaux vivants dans l'habitacle des avions, sauf autorisation expresse des services du vice-président de l'aéroport. Mais on peut tolérer le transport à bord de faucons, spécialement dans la région du Golfe, à condition de se conformer aux règles suivantes: le steward en chef doit assurer les passagers des sièges adjacents que le porteur des faucons maîtrise parfaitement ses oiseaux et qu'il n'y a pas lieu de s'inquiéter. Les faucons "sont dressés et utilisés pour la chasse". Voilà qui doit tranquilliser les chanceux passagers des sièges adjacents...

Ils retrouvent leurs lettres de noblesse en Jordanie

Chevaux arabes: Le retour de la diaspora

Longtemps pillée par les Occidentaux, la race chevaline arabe fait un retour en force en Jordanie, où les élevages et les manifestations équestres se multiplient.

"Quand Dieu décida de créer le cheval, il parla au vent du Sud et dit: 'Je veux que tu engendres un être qui fera la gloire de ceux qui croient en moi et la terreur de ceux qui m'ont ennemis.' Ainsi le Coran décrit-il la naissance de la 'plus noble conquête de l'homme', en l'occurrence l'ambassadeur de Dieu en personne. 'Le cheval est un cadeau de Dieu, et l'homme a le devoir d'en prendre soin.' dit-on encore en Jordanie, en souvenir de l'amour du prophète pour les chevaux.

Après des décennies de quasi-oubli, les sujets du Royaume Hachémite retrouvent l'intérêt du cheval arabe, notamment sous l'impulsion de la princesse Alia. Les éleveurs sont de plus en plus nombreux en Jordanie. Par exemple, on reproduit des chevaux dont le pedigree est minutieusement enregistré dans le Livre des origines (studbook). Il a fallu aller jusqu'en Europe chercher des étalons et des juments arabes afin de redynamiser sur soi d'origine l'élevage de la plus vieille race chevaline du monde. Les Arabes veulent reprendre en main la continuation d'une lignée abondamment pillée par les Occidentaux.

Généralement considéré comme la plus précieuse des races de chevaux, l'Arabe est aussi le premier cheval apparu sur la terre, ancêtre de tous ses cousins. Son origine est toujours controversée: les uns avancent qu'il a vu le jour dans la plaine de Mésopotamie, sur les bords de l'Euphrate, avant d'être adopté par les tribus de la péninsule. Pour les autres, il est directement apparu en Arabie centrale, fils du désert. Mais de part et d'autre, on s'accorde à dater son apparition il y a 2000 à 3000 ans.

Foudre de guerre

Ce n'est que plus tard qu'il fut exporté, à la faveur des conquêtes et invasions. Isolée de son contexte d'origine et souvent croisée, le cheval s'est alors transformé physiquement selon les latitudes sous lesquelles il vivait. Aux Amériques, les premiers chevaux étaient coupés d'arabe, importés par les conquistadors espagnols. Partout, il était utilisé comme auxiliaire guerrier, symbole de puissance. Guy de Fontaines de Logeres, responsable des écuries privées royales, rappelle que le cheval fut le principal instrument des conquêtes islamiques, irremplaçable pour fonder sur l'ennemi et capable de parcourir de longues distances. "Le dromadaire était avant tout un animal de transport. Le cheval le relayait pour le combat. Si l'on devait couvrir un long trajet pour faire un raid, on montait les dromadaires et les chevaux marchaient à côté, afin de ne pas les fatiguer. Ce n'est qu'au moment d'attaquer que l'on enfourchait ces derniers, bien plus souples et rapides", dit-il. Si le dromadaire est le roi de la sobriété, le cheval arabe en est sans doute le prince, conditionné par le milieu désertique.

Mais quand le combat s'arrête, le combattant est oublié. En Jordanie comme dans la plupart des pays arabes, l'habileté militaire du cheval est remise en cause après les guerres d'indépendance. Disparition des luttes tribales avec l'établissement d'Etats, et surtout apparition des avions et des auto-mitrailleuses rangent le



Au galop, il "flotte", donnant l'impression que ses pieds ne touchent pas le sol.

cheval au magasin des accessoires guerriers, voire au musée. La Légion arabe, si elle était encore une armée de cavaliers, remporterait ses batailles grâce à ses auto-mitrailleuses...

Dès lors, l'intérêt pour le cheval alla décroissant dans la région et les cas de juments pur-sang vendues bien au-dessous de leur valeur par des bédouins à des officiers anglais avisés furent fréquents à partir des années 40. L'intérêt de l'Occident pour le cheval arabe n'était pas nouveau. De longue date, cette race était élevée en Espagne, en Angleterre, en Pologne et en France. On les utilisait aussi en croisant pour améliorer la qualité des cheptels, auxquels le sang arabe apportait robustesse

et finesse. L'exemple le plus connu est sans doute celui de l'Anglo-Arabe, cheval de course par excellence, qui cumule la haute taille de l'Anglais et la fougue de l'Arabe. Dès le 19ème siècle, des expéditions militaires étaient envoyées dans les pays arabes avec mission de ramener des chevaux.

Diaspora

Au cours de notre siècle, les guerres, épidémies et occupations étrangères décimèrent les élevages dans la région. La race arabe était devenue une véritable diaspora, dispersée aux quatre coins du monde. C'est ainsi que le Roi Abdallah, pour renflouer ses écuries, eut notamment recours à un étalon offert par Franco d'E-

spagne et à un autre importé d'Egypte. Comble de l'ironie, il fallut pour réactiver la race au Proche-Orient s'appuyer sur le Livre des origines (studbook) établi par la World Arabian Horse Organisation (WAHO), basée à... Londres.

Le premier studbook étranger reconnu par la WAHO fut égyptien. Le Jordanien fut le second à être homologué, à partir du haras royal (100 chevaux à ce jour), sous l'impulsion du Roi Hussein et de sa fille aînée, la princesse Alia. Tout éleveur doit soumettre ses pensionnaires au comité du studbook s'il veut établir leur pedigree. "Si la Jordanie est en retard par rapport à ses voisins syriens et libanais en matière de compétition hippique, elle les devance largement dans l'élevage et

l'établissement des origines des chevaux arabes", estime M. de Fontaines de Logeres.

Sans avoir ce main son pedigree, on peut facilement reconnaître un cheval arabe: plus petit que ses confrères européens, il a aussi le dos plus court car il ne possède que 23 vertèbres au lieu de 24 pour les autres races. D'apparence très fine, voire fragile, il dissimule une structure osseuse très dense qui, alliée à une musculature effilée, lui confère robustesse et agilité. Son encolure est très flexible. Mais l'élément le plus caractéristique du cheval arabe est sa courbe tête "camuse" en triangle, présentant un profil concave, dû à la préminence de son front et de son os nasal. Ses arcades sourcillaires, très écartées, enrobent de grands yeux expressifs qui, associés à ses oreilles pointant vers l'avant, lui donnent ce je-ne-sais-quoi d'air intelligent.

Mellieur ami de l'homme

"Mens sana in corpore sano." Pour ne rien gâter, le cheval arabe est aussi élégant. Quand il galope, il "flotte" un instant en suspension au-dessus du sol, qu'il donne l'impression de ne jamais toucher. Sa noblesse est encore soulignée par un port de queue très haut. Intelligent, beau, il ne lui restait plus qu'à être gentil. Justement, on attribue au cheval arabe une grande force de caractère et un attachement viscéral à l'homme. Selon M. Bustani, membre fondateur du club royal d'équitation, cette affinité s'explique par le fait que dans le désert, les bédouins passaient leurs jours et leurs nuits aux côtés de leurs montures, partageant avec elles le gîte et le repas.

Si le cheval arabe n'est pas fait pour les concours hippiques, il a pas son égal en course d'endurance. M. Bustani se souvient avoir en 1972 parcouru à cheval les 93 km de piste reliant Amman à l'oasis d'Azraq, à travers le désert. Il ne lui a pas fallu plus de 13 heures pour couvrir la distance, avec deux balles d'une heure seulement.

Toutes ces qualités ont fait de l'Arabe un cheval de prix, voire un objet de spéculation. Aux Etats-Unis, une exemption fiscale sur les investissements agricoles a encouragé cette course aux enchères, transformant les concours "modèles et allures" (concours de beauté équestre) en véritable show-business. Alors qu'on trouvait des pur-sang arabes pour 5000 dollars, certains atteignaient le triple, voire parfois plus de 10 millions de dollars! Mais des amendements législatifs devaient mettre fin à cette montée des enchères, qui favorisait le dévoiement de la race. "Pour privilégier l'aspect extérieur du cheval, on se livrait à des croisements discutables pour la pureté de l'espèce arabe", estime M. de Fontaines de Logeres.

Le tiercé cheval-Paris-spéculation n'est pas encore de mise en Jordanie, où l'on n'oublie pas que les courses ont fait du tort à la race arabe, à cause du succès de l'Anglo-Arabe dans ces compétitions. Des courses sont néanmoins organisées à la belle saison tous les vendredis au Royal Racing Club, mais on y admire les foulées plus qu'on y parie. Le Royaume Hachémite a surtout fait parler de lui cet été, en accueillant sous les auspices de la princesse Alia le premier concours international (modèles et allures) de cheval arabe au Proche-Orient. Juste retour aux sources. Il reste maintenant à former des cavaliers...

François Ducroux

La France en tête de l'Europe

Sida: triste record

La France est le pays d'Europe occidentale le plus touché par le Sida et le cap des 10.000 morts devrait être franchi à la fin de 1990. Selon les chiffres de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) publiés le 29 novembre, 4.211 cas de malades développant le virus sont actuellement recensés en France, soit le plus fort pourcentage par rapport à la population en Europe. Il y en avait 21 en 1981. Le nombre de personnes séropositives — porteurs du virus mais n'ayant pas encore développé la maladie — est estimé entre 150.000 et 300.000. Un recensement national des malades du Sida et des séropositifs va être lancé en France afin d'améliorer leur surveillance médicale. Sous le contrôle de la commission informatique et libérée, l'inscription dans les fichiers ne pourra se faire qu'avec l'accord écrit de la personne concernée, et son nom ne sera pas révélé. Selon l'OMS, plus de 5.000 nouveaux cas de Sida ont été enregistrés dans le monde au cours du mois de novembre.

ponant le nombre des contaminés connus à 129.385. On estime généralement le nombre réel de cas de Sida à plus de 300.000 dans le monde. Les Etats-Unis sont toujours en tête du palmarès mondial, avec 78.985 cas déclarés, et le continent américain détient les plus fortes proportions de malades (près de 100.000 cas recensés). La plupart de ces cas se produisent chez des hommes homosexuels ou bisexuels de 20 à 49 ans et chez des toxicomanes par voie intraveineuse. En Europe de l'Ouest, 15.648 cas ont été signalés, soit 12% du total mondial. Après la France, les taux les plus élevés par rapport à la population sont relevés en Suisse, puis en Espagne, au Danemark, en Italie, aux Pays-Bas, en RFA, en Grande-Bretagne, en Autriche et en Belgique. L'Afrique ne représente que 16% du total mondial, mais rappelle que ces chiffres n'englobent que les cas déclarés. (D'après AFP)

FIGURE

Platini shoote la drogue



Platini dédicace un ballon au Roi Hussein

Michel Platini a quitté le football en tant que joueur il y a dix sept mois, et se bat désormais contre la toxicomanie. Il a en effet mis en place en 1987 la fondation pour la réinsertion des drogués qui porte son nom. Depuis trois semaines, il cumule cette activité et celle de sélectionneur de l'équipe de France. Le Roi Hussein s'est personnellement intéressé à la fondation Platini, à laquelle il a récemment remis un chèque de 10.000 dollars.

En visite pour trois jours en Jordanie (28-30 novembre), le footballeur français a drainé des foules de jeunes enthousiastes, donnant une conférence le 28. "Les adolescents sont très touchés par la drogue, et ils étaient mon public. Il m'ont apporté beaucoup de joies et je veux à mon tour faire quelque chose pour la jeunesse", a-t-il dit, ajoutant qu'il était plus facile pour une célébrité de faire une bonne oeuvre que pour un individu inconnu. "L'attention portée par le Roi Hussein contribuera à faire mieux connaître et soutenir ma fondation", s'est félicité Platini. En retour, il a joué en vedette dans un mini-match exhibition, dont les recettes d'entrées seront versées à la fondation jordanienne pour la paralysie cérébrale.

Longuement interrogé par le public et les journalistes sur le football, Michel Platini a estimé que l'avenir du ballon rond appartenait à l'Afrique, au Moyen-Orient et aux pays en développement "parce qu'il est plus facile d'y jouer qu'en Europe". Question d'espace, tout simplement. Il a précisé qu'il ne connaissait pas bien le football arabe si ce n'est par la télévision et ses souvenirs de matches contre le Koweït, la Tunisie et l'Algérie. Selon Platini, ce football manque encore d'expérience par rapport aux équipes européennes et sud-américaines.

En conclusion, Platini a adressé un message à la jeunesse: "Faites du sport. Cela rapproche les peuples, on y surpasse les problèmes politiques et religieux. On intègre aussi un groupe, on se fait des copains", a-t-il dit. Michel Platini est né le 21 juin 1955 dans l'Est de la France. Son grand-père était italien. Il joue à Nancy, puis à Saint-Etienne, avec qui il remporte le championnat de France en 1981. Puis il rejoint la Juventus de Turin en 1983. Il est meilleur buteur et meilleur joueur européen en 1983, 1984 et 1985. Il se retire officiellement de la compétition en mai 1988, au cours d'un "jubilé" historique.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

La guerre est finie

D'Alain Resnais, avec Yves Montand (1965): une méditation sur la solitude des résistants durant la guerre d'Espagne. CCF, mercredi 7 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe)

Festival italien

— "Un garçon de Calabre", de Luigi Comencini (1987) le 1er
— "L'arbre aux sabots", d'Ermanno Olmi (1978) le 2
— "Metello", de Mauro Bolognini (1969) le 3
— "La circonstance", d'Ermanno Olmi (1974) le 4
— "Fière mer", de Folco Quilici (1975) le 5
— "Secrets secrets", de Giuseppe Bertolucci (1985) le 6
Centre culturel royal, tous les soirs à 20h00 sous-titré en anglais

Ciné-club

Séances respectivement à 19h00, 20h00, 21h00, 22h00. Le 1er: The bank shot, Name of the Rose, Yô, Portrait of Jennie, Maria's lovers. Le 2: Plenty, Ishbar, Uncommon valor, Redneck country. One from the heart. Le 3: The French lieutenant woman, Bad lands, The world according to Garp, Countess Dracula, Tess. Le 4: Southern Comfort, Wedding of Figlia, El Cid, Streets of fire, Cal people. Le 5: The bridge of the river Kwai, Witness, Fiddler on the roof, To the devil a daughter, Kiss of the spider woman. Le 6: Scraps, Sorcerers, Final countdown, September. Le 7: Death of Dominick, Duel, The outlaw jockey, wales. Harum holiday, Radio days. Films en version originale. Tel: 643901. Route de l'université, à droite après le bâtiment "Cathédrale", puis à gauche, 300m.

CONFERENCE

Histoire d'os

Danielle Stordeur, chargée de recherche au CNRS, spécialiste des industries osseuses, nous fait découvrir les plus anciennes utilisations de l'os: outils, armes, parures... CCF, mardi 6 à 18h00

EXPO-VENTE

Livres français

Art, littérature, histoire, cuisine, sport, photographie, classiques, mais aussi une variété de dictionnaires et de livres pour enfants. CCF, du 3 au 5 décembre

TELEVISION

"Retour en force", de Jean-Marie Poiré, avec Victor Lanoux, Bernadette Lafont et Pierre Mondy: comédie. Andrien son de prison et ses anciens amis l'attaquent à la mitraille. Ouant à sa femme, elle vit avec un conducteur d'autobus... (JTV, vendredi 2 à 17h30)

MODE

Défilé de mode enfantine jeudi 1er au Marriott, dans le cadre de la semaine française. Les modèles seront présentés par les enfants de l'école française à 16h15. A 16h00, tirage de la tombola (1er prix: 4 jours à Paris). Billets (5 JD adultes, 3 JD enfants) en vente à l'école et au Centre culturel français.

Ma photo dans le journal

Clichés de week-ends drôles, insolites, émouvants: envoyez-nous vos meilleures photos, assorties d'un (court) texte d'explication. Nous en ferons profiter nos lecteurs.

Envoyez vos tirages-papier à F. Ducroux, Jordan Times, French section, P.O. Box 6710, Amman.

Musique hybride d'une jeunesse frustrée

Algérie, France: le raï qui raille

Tandis que l'Algérie passe ses plaies après les émeutes d'octobre, on entend plus que jamais à Paris comme à Alger le raï, expression musicale des frustrations de la jeunesse algérienne.

Ce "blues" électrique arabe a traversé la Méditerranée et les "chefs" ("jeune", préfixe systématiquement accolé au nom des chanteurs) envahissent désormais les stations de radios de l'ancien colonisateur avec leur message de révolte.

"Les types qui ont été tués par l'armée, c'était aussi ceux qui chantaient et dansaient le raï dans les rues", dit Abderrahmane Dahmane, animateur de Radio Maghreb. Sa station compte parmi les nombreuses radios privées ciblant la grande communauté nord-africaine de Paris. "Dans une société verrouillée d'un côté par l'armée, de l'autre par les imams, le raï est la seule échappatoire", ajoute-t-il.

En Algérie, les jeunes de moins de 25 ans représentent près de 60% de la population et le raï est une des rares façons d'exorciser leurs frustrations, nourries par le chômage et les inégalités sociales.

Cocktail ambigü

Le raï ("opinion" en arabe), cocktail ambigü, mêle des accents de lyrisme arabe et les décharges électriques de la musique pop occidentale, qui secouaient déjà le port d'Oran à la fin des années 70.

Au commencement, il n'était joué que dans les bars, les maisons closes et les boîtes de nuit douteuses. Les paroles du raï ont toujours trait aux émotions sensuelles, sujet tabou dans l'Islam. "Le raï, c'est d'abord l'érotisme, mais aussi l'amour, le cri d'une jeunesse qui veut vivre pleinement, dans une société heureuse où tout serait permis... Les imams attaquent le raï parce qu'ils y voient la main du diable".



Cheb Khaled

estime Dahmane. Et si les chanteurs de raï assombrissent leur nom de "cheb", c'est avant tout pour se démarquer des chanteurs arabes traditionnels volontiers appelés "cheikh", signe de maturité et de respectabilité. Avec des titres tels que "Je sors tous les soirs", "Mon coeur chavire sans celle", leurs chan-

sons reflètent les frustrations affectives d'une jeunesse désœuvrée. D'autres titres s'attaquent aux rationnements alimentaires, à la corruption, à l'inertie des bureaucraties.

Le président Boumedienne avait interdit cette musique subversive. Mais devant le succès du Raï propagé par les Algériens émigrés en France, le président Chadli a fini par autoriser sa diffusion sur la radio nationale. Approche plus tolérante d'une expression populaire difficile à ignorer? Dahmane est plus cynique: "Le gouvernement a officialisé le Raï pour le neutraliser, lui faire perdre son caractère subversif, tout comme l'établissement américain avait accepté la musique noire dans les années 50", dit-il.

Piratage

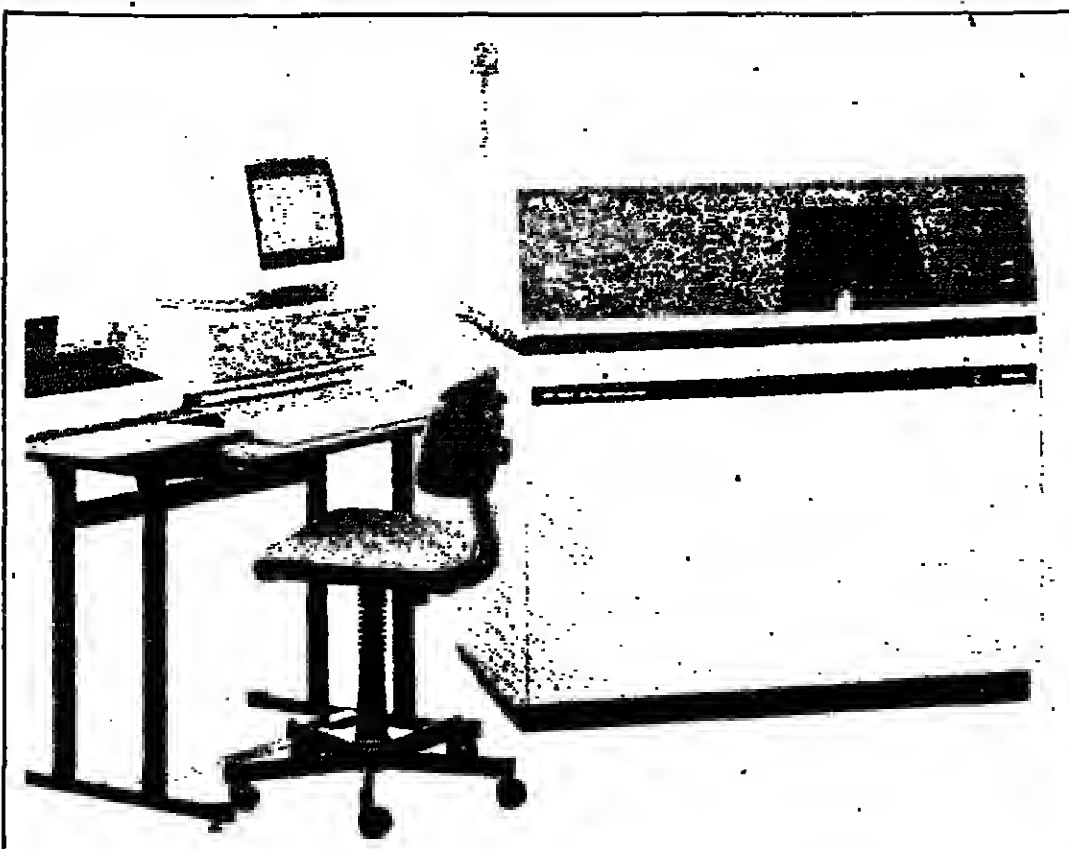
Les cassettes enregistrées dans les studios algériens sont vendues 20 francs (3 dollars) l'unité, en raison du piratage. Ainsi, seuls les producteurs tirent profit de ce

marché juteux. Les artistes, en l'absence de droits d'auteurs, doivent se contenter de l'adulation de leur public.

C'est pourquoi les musiciens algériens sont de plus en plus nombreux à enregistrer à Paris, où ils jouissent de copyrights mais aussi de larges circuits de distribution et peuvent rêver à des tournées européennes. Ils sont d'ores et déjà superstars auprès de la communauté algérienne émigrée.

Les compagnies européennes commencent d'ailleurs à s'intéresser de près à cette musique. Virgin Records a déjà sorti une compilation des plus grands "tubes" du raï sur disque, cassette et compact-disc. Selon un responsable de Virgin, les ventes dépassent déjà toutes les espérances de la maison de disques.

"Je pense que cette musique a de beaux jours devant elle, car elle est très, très commerciale", dit-il. D'après Michela Wrong (Reuter)



The new wondermachine, the Automatic Sequential Spectrometre

RSS upgrades technical output

By Suhair Obeidat

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Dead Sea is to become a major resource of vital industrial components by the end of 1989, Royal Scientific Society Industrial Chemistry Department Director Dr. M. Bino told the Jordan Times.

The RSS is now carrying out a number of industrial research projects to extract minerals from the brines of the Dead Sea. "We are working hand in hand with the Jordanian Industrial Consortium of Engineering Companies (JICECO) in utilising Dead Sea minerals in producing downstream chemicals," Bino said.

The RSS currently is trying to upgrade the Russaifeh phosphates to utilise it in chemical processes in conjunction with Dead Sea sodium chloride (table salt); the result would be soda ash; a vital speciality compound used to glass, chemical and petroleum industries.

"Soda ash is heavily used in drilling oil wells, so we not only plan to start producing it locally, but to export it to neighbouring countries, mainly the Gulf area," he added.

The other research project on the RSS agenda is the manufacturing of potassium sulphate. "We simply have to go to the south of Jordan, where we can find millions of tons of phosphogypsum, the industrial by-product of the fertiliser industry company. Together with special components from the brines of the Dead Sea, we can easily manufacture potassium sulphate, which is widely used in the chemical industry. We also intend to use it in producing fertilisers."

"But our existing technological facilities are inadequate so we

have to go to more sophisticated equipment to be able to achieve our goals," Bino pointed out.

As a non-profit organisation, the RSS depends on aid from Italy, West Germany and members of the European Community in developing its potentials in applied research and staff training. The Italian government has recently equipped the in-organic section with JD 200,000 worth of latest analytical instruments and training.

The new devices will upgrade the capability of technical services given by the RSS to the private sector, particularly the industrial sector. "Royal Jordanian has already taken advantage of this new technology in solving some mechanical problems."

The X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) offers its services to the University of Jordan, and the Natural Resources Authority and the Jordanian Cement Factories Company. Its computer programs increase the instrument's capacity to analyse many additional elements, which enables it to absorb the work of similar devices in other enterprises, if they happen to break down.

The Inductive by Coupled Plasma (ICP) complements to the XRF in its capability to analyse a group of elements at the same time including concentrations as low as one part per billion.

On demonstrating the device, Al-Ali explained that the ICP analyses wear metals in lubricating oils and turbine engines, water and environmental pollution detection.

"Growing concern over the quality of Jordan's environment has prompted the RSS to set the first laboratory for the testing of pollution to the Kingdom, by

means of the newly acquired devices," Bino added.

In addition to the XRF and the ICP, the RSS is adequately equipped with chromatographic analysis instruments, backed by computer. "This particular device is used for the testing and evaluation of medical gases," he said.

The Ministry of Health has accredited this lab at the RSS to control and monitor the purity of medical gases in Jordanian hospitals, that is until the technical team at the ministry has been similarly trained.

Testing medical gases is extremely important. Accidents have occurred in developed countries and elsewhere where patients were provided with contaminated gases, sometimes leading to fatalities.

"Consequently," he noted, "these instruments hugely increase the effectiveness of our testing facilities as a safeguard against the mislabelling of gas cylinders and manufacturing faults in the production of medical gases."

On the other hand, obtaining these invaluable instruments was not as important as qualifying and training the staff to use and maintain the devices properly, Bino stressed.

A number of selected researchers were trained in Italy twice before the arrival of the devices, then once at the RSS by the installation expert.

"We received the instruments in June, began to operate them in July and by September, they were being fully operated by RSS staff," Bino pointed out.

In closed West Bank schools, the sound of silence is painful

By Glenn Frankel

RAMALLAH, Israeli-occupied West Bank — The main thing that bothers him when he walks his empty hallways, said the Lutheran School headmaster, Abdullah Rishmawi, is the silence.

"There used to be a lovely noise here every school day," he recalled recently on the deserted grounds of the private school with nearly 500 pupils, ranging from kindergarten to 12th grade. "Now it is dead quiet. I mean, for God's sake, this is a school. Here are desks, chairs, blackboards. But where are the children?"

Throughout the 1,194 schools of the Israeli-occupied West Bank that teach Palestinians — elementary and secondary, high schools, colleges and universities — there is only silence these days. Beginning with an Israeli military order in February, the institutions have been closed for at least eight of the last 10 months, hostages in the nearly yearlong conflict between Palestinian nationalists and Israel's army.

Last year's academic term never ended and this year's has yet to begin. Meanwhile, 300,000 school-age children and 18,000 college and university students remain in limbo. Schoolmasters such as Mr. Rishmawi fear this may stunt an entire generation of West Bankers.

There are certain critical periods in a child's life where you begin to learn skills such as reading and writing," said Khalil

Mahshi, headmaster at the Friends' Boys School in Ramallah. "I don't want to see our kids going back to illiteracy and playing with garbage on the streets."

Army officials say the schools are closed because they had become centres of violent disturbances during the 11-month Arab uprising in the West Bank to which 310 Palestinians and 11 Israelis have been killed. When the uprising ends, the schools will reopen, officials say.

A spokesman for the West Bank's civil administration said that primary schools would be allowed to reopen on Dec. 1, followed by junior and senior high schools. Universities, however, will remain closed.

But Palestinian educators and local residents have heard such promises before. After ordering all schools closed on Feb. 3, the military commander of the West Bank reopened them in phases beginning May 23. But by July 21, he had ordered all of them closed again, citing renewed violence, and he has extended the order several times since.

Many schools have been closed for far longer because they are situated in refugee camps or towns and villages that have been subjected to prolonged military curfews. Bethlehem University has been closed since violent disturbances on Oct. 29, 1987, and the West Bank's four other major universities have been shut since January.

The army also has cracked down on organised attempts at

alternative or home study, contending these have often been organised by local "popular committees" that have been outlawed for allegedly seeking to incite civil unrest and further the goals of Palestinian independence.

In the West Bank city of Nablus two months ago, the army closed the Society of Friends of An Najah University after high school classes in physics, chemistry and English were held in its offices.

Last month, Mr. Mahshi was called into Ramallah's military headquarters after he began distributing home study assignments prepared by teachers at the school. He said he had been ordered to stop distributing the assignments.

"I had assumed that the Israelis were not against learning but were simply attempting to prohibit gatherings and disturbances," he said. "But they said there was another reason as well. They said the object is to get life back to normal and they have to use this pressure for parents to understand what they are missing. They said that by helping these parents, I was hindering their efforts to get life back to normal."

Mr. Mahshi said he pleaded with the authorities to allow schools to reopen at least for the estimated 30,000 West Bank youngsters who are waiting to enter first grade and who clearly pose no security threat to Israel. So far, the answer has been no. "Already we have had a 5-



Alternative education in the West Bank: an outdoor class last May.

year-old shot dead in Nablus and a 3-year-old in Gaza," said a senior military official. "We are afraid that if we open the schools for these small children and something happens, they will get hurt."

"The message to the parents is that we plan to open the schools, but we want them to be quiet schools" — The Washington Post.

Some students make it; others find success elusive

Pros and cons of studying abroad

By Dr. Mohamed Ishgi

JEDDAH — Is it beneficial or detrimental for our students to study abroad? The answer to this question is not simple. Nevertheless, it would be helpful to elaborate on some of the pros and cons which are frequently associated with "studying abroad."

My intention is not to advocate or reject any particular stand, but to illuminate a confusing situation which might impede the development of better understanding of the purpose and significance of studying abroad.

A student's introduction to a new society is a very personal experience. Everyone of us reacts differently to different circumstances. Many young men are not ready for this experience: the cultural differences; the language barriers; the total freedom of being independent and responsible for one's self for the first time. Some are unprepared for the acute loneliness they face. On the

other hand, some students are very eager to be let loose. There is nothing like just looking out for number one! Perhaps it is the excitement of making new friends of the first time as adults, an escape from the school boys one has known since grade school and sees year after year.

In every society there are different levels of achievement. Some students do not seem to try very hard and pass with flying colours. Other study seven days a week to make it and others just cannot quite succeed and drop out.

Western universities and colleges try and help foreign students to settle in by providing accommodation on campus or by finding them a family to live with. Visiting students may even find their own housing.

Language programmes are offered by Western universities for all foreign students to improve their communication skills and prepare them for academic requirements. Foreign universi-

ties are also equipped with academic experts in all fields including humanities, social and pure sciences, and the most advanced equipment in their labs. Their libraries contain a phenomenal variety of material — from documents, to books, to periodicals and newspapers. Information may be available in printed form or on microfilm.

But for all these advantages, there are several drawbacks. Any student not having a clear picture of his intended goals, and the determination to achieve them, might fall into illicit, undesirable and disruptive behaviour incorporating drugs, drinking and violence. The foreign press can influence and direct the thinking of inexperienced and naive students toward different political philosophies.

Western educators and organisations might entice young foreign graduates to stay on in the host country instead of returning home after their studies. This

phenomenon is known as the "brain drain." There is also the possibility of young men marrying foreigners against the wishes of their own families. All too many students return home after spending four or five or more years abroad without achieving their goals. Most Saudi students, unlike students from other countries, do not face the burden of financial responsibility for their education thanks to the generosity of the Saudi government, their families and Saudi society in general.

Study abroad is both beneficial and detrimental for our students. Beneficial because where else in the world is an education, and the best education money can buy, paid for solely by the government provided students meet the necessary requirements. But the other side of the coin is that some students abuse the system by lengthening their intended scholarship deadlines. They do not learn the true value of money.

They fail to appreciate the support they are given and thus are not keen to work hard and earn their degrees.

It is not a black or white situation.

The pros and cons are different for all of us, but we must remember that we all make our own decisions. It is not a society or a nation in particular which corrupts or abducts or fails our young people. True, that there are dangers present overseas for our students but they must have their own desires and goals to succeed or fail.

Family and society must apply discipline and guidance to help these young people to succeed. Our national universities must monitor these students to make them want to succeed. It is also up to our society to employ these students on their return and help them in readjusting gracefully to their own environment — Arab News.

Dot. Dot. Dot. Dashed —

A NEW agreement spells the eventual end of the Morse Code as a means of sending radio messages — including the SOS distress call — by ships at sea.

From 1993 onwards the signalling key which taps out dots and dashes will give way to a less laborious method which reflects today's high-technology. This will include the use of communications satellites.

The move was agreed upon by member-countries of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), a United Nations' offshoot concerned with shipping safety.

According to the agency, the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) represents the greatest advance in maritime communications since the introduction of radio.

An IMO spokesman conceded that Morse did conjure up romantic pictures of gallant radio operators remaining at their posts to send off distress signals from sinking ships. "But we are now introducing something that will be much better, and which will save even more lives," he added. GMDSS, which will enable an SOS call to be sent just by press-

ing a button, will become compulsory on ships by 1999, a century after Samuel Morse's invention first came into use electrically at sea.

Morse, an American, had produced his electromagnetic system about 60 years earlier. He sent his first message on an experimental line between Washington and Baltimore in 1844.

The code is based on the use of dots and dashes, the former being achieved by applying momentary pressure on the transmitter key. A dash lasts three times as long. Thus the letter A is denoted by a dot and a dash —, while a Z is two dashes and two dots.

The letter V, ... came to assume a special significance for the people of occupied Europe during the Second World War. Sounded on a drum to introduce broadcasts from the BBC in London, it expressed hope and confidence in eventual victory.

From earliest times men have tried to solve the problem of how to convey information in circumstances in which it would be either impracticable or too slow to use a messenger. This has been especially true in the military field — Liao features.

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Monday, a day to dread for Germany's powerful

By Meinolf Eilers

HAMBURG (DPA) — Politicians and economic bosses in West Germany are said to fear Mondays.

Each Monday, a new issue of the news magazine *Der Spiegel* hits the newsstands, as often as not with sensational disclosures about political scandals likely to feed public debate for weeks.

Rudolph Augstein, founder and publisher of *Der Spiegel*, has made the publication one of the most influential voices in West German political life.

He does not plan to retire though he turned 65 on Nov. 5, as he does not feel he can be replaced at the magazine's helm just yet.

Augstein, as a 23-year-old, published the first issue of *Der Spiegel* on Jan. 1, 1947. The British occupation authorities in the northern German city of Hamburg had authorized a news magazine patterned after *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Augstein quickly developed the magazine's characteristic style. *Spiegel* stories are a mix of news and commentary, composed in what has become a hallmark language laced with derisive new word combinations and expressions borrowed from colloquial German.

The magazine became a harsh critic of West German governments, especially conservative ones, in Bonn. Augstein called *Der Spiegel* the "combat weapon of democracy." When in doubt, Augstein said, the magazine sided with the left.

Augstein waged a journalistic war against West Germany's first chancellor, Konrad Adenauer and his then defence minister, Franz Josef Strauss in his pages. "Adenauer embraced the Allies with all too open arms," Augstein later said. After Adenauer's death, however, Augstein changed his mind about the chancellor and his accomplishments.

The duel with Strauss escalated to a stage in 1962. The magazine's editorial offices in Hamburg were searched in connection with treason allegations after it published an article criticising the "Felix 62" NATO manoeuvres.

Augstein was held in jail for several months. The charges were withdrawn because of lack of evidence in 1965. Strauss had to step down as defence minister, but remained a central figure in West German politics as head of the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria until his death in October.

Augstein's obituary for the late Strauss was respectful. He closed with the words "God be with you."

Der Spiegel depicted West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who allegedly ignores the magazine, as clumsy for a long time. In the meantime, his image has improved. Kohl is no far-sighted strategist though a skilled tactician, Augstein wrote recently.

Although conservative politicians often belittle the sole West German news magazine, calling it a "leftist battle paper," its contributions to the West German's so-called political hygiene are uncontested.

Spiegel published stories on the illegal contributions of the Flick industrial concern to West German political parties, the scandalous financial dealings of the trade union owned housing giant Neue Heimat, and the scandal surrounding Uwe Barschel, the late premier of West Germany's northernmost state of Schleswig-Holstein, who launched a dirty tricks campaign against his opponent in regional elections.

The magazine, however, did not have to fear the legal consequences of its revelations. With a stable circulation of one million and a large percentage of advertising, *Der Spiegel* is also one of the greatest economic successes in the history of German publishing.

Augstein, whose nearly 1,000 employees own almost half the firm's shares, withdrew increasingly from the daily details of publishing in 1972. A member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), Augstein was elected a member of parliament in 1972.



JAILED: Rudolf Augstein was jailed for several months because he published a scandal involving Defence Minister Strauss in 1962.

but gave up his seat two months later.

He is an extraordinary author as well as being a journalist. He published his first work, a drama, in 1947. He wrote an irreverent book about Prussian King Frederick the Great (1712-1786) in 1968, followed a book on Jesus.

Augstein calls himself a "positive cynic." He told critics who said he was hopelessly pessimistic: "Hope is good, but reason is not to hope." The *Spiegel* head, who admires the French Emperor Napoleon and the "iron" Prussian Chancellor Bismarck, has not yet determined who his successor will be. Whomever he settles on — it is hard to imagine *Der Spiegel* without Augstein.

"A man like Augstein is not substitutable like a domino," the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* wrote.



Farmers protect their crop.

Pesticides and the consumer

By Sachinta Wijesooriya
Special to the Jordan Times

This is the second of two articles dealing with the pros and cons of pesticide use in Jordan's agricultural sector.

AS IT stands now, consumers of agricultural produce have no way of knowing if their food contains dangerous pesticide residues, or whether the amount of residue on their food is hazardous to their health.

In addition to those used in agriculture, pesticides are sprayed on home gardens, supermarkets and open markets, water sources, in hospitals, offices, and homes; they are contained in a variety of products from shampoos, to mattresses and shower curtains. Pesticides are a part of modern life, and are found where we live, where we work, in the air we breathe, in the water we drink, and the food we eat.

Health Risks

The effects of pesticides on human beings is only partially known. They affect us much the

same way as they do insects, by attacking the central nervous system.

In the United States, a National Cancer Institute study found that farmers exposed to herbicides had a six times greater risk of cancer than non-farmers. In a 1987 study, also sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, researchers at the University of Southern California found that children whose homes and gardens were regularly sprayed with pesticides were seven times as likely to contract childhood leukemia than those in a pesticide-free environment.

A 1987 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report titled "Unfinished Business" ranked pesticides in food as one of the most serious national health and environmental problems. Many pesticides widely used throughout the world contain ingredients that

are known or suspected to be carcinogenic. The EPA has identified 55 of them. Some pesticides cause birth defects or miscarriages. Others produce genetic mutations that can be passed to the next generation. Others can cause sterility or fertility problems. According to Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture sources, pesticides known to be carcinogenic and mutagenic have been banned from Jordan.

A 1982 congressional report showed that an estimated 82 to 85 per cent of pesticides registered in the U.S. had not been adequately tested for their carcinogenicity.

Recent studies have raised questions about the possibility of harmful effects on some components of the immune system. Pesticide testing, however, does not currently include those that determine toxicity to the immune system.

By these reports, it is evident that pesticides are being widely used without adequate information on their long term effects on human health. The human population unknowingly serves as



The finished product before it goes on the market.

the test subject.

Jordan's Efforts Towards Safe Pest Control

The Ministry of Agriculture requires that samples of produce from a cross section of farms be tested on a weekly basis for pesticide residue. Produce containing unsafe levels of residue are not permitted to be brought to market. When high pesticide levels are found, the crop is confiscated, and the farm owner is fined. Despite the efforts to monitor residue levels, it is not possible to ensure that every item of produce reaching the market is safe for consumption.

Dr. Youssef Shuraiki, Director of the Pesticide Formulation and Residue Analysis Centre (an agency of the Ministry of Agriculture) spoke of problems related to controlling pesticide residue found in produce. "There are two types of pesticides used on produce in Jordan — systemic and contact. The systemic pesticides go into the produce and stay inside for a period of time. There is a period of waiting before the produce is ready for safe consumption."

This waiting period must be strictly followed. The contact pesticides are sprayed externally, but often lose their effects because of its exposure to the environment. In either case, if the produce goes to market before the waiting period is over, the consumer ingests the pesticide.

Dr. Shuraiki talked about alternative methods of pesticide control in agriculture. "We encourage the use of biological pest control. This method has been applied successfully in Jordan in eradicating the mealy bug which attacked citrus, using other insects that are its natural enemies. No chemical pesticides can be used in this method."

Planting varieties of crops that are disease and pest resistant can drastically cut down the need for pesticides. We also encourage the farmers to spray only when necessary, rather than as a routine procedure, and to use only the recommended quantities of the pesticides, and to strictly follow directions for use.

Of the produce tested in Jordan, leafy vegetables tend to contain the highest levels of residue. Besides these, produce such as strawberries, cucumbers, eggplants, zucchini and other cash crops grown in plastic greenhouses also have been known to show high levels of pesticide residue.

Role of Farm Owners

While information to the farm workers is of utmost importance, it is the farm owners who play a more crucial role in the safe use of pesticides. It is within their power to choose safe pesticides for use on their farms, provide the safety equipment and clothing, and to enforce adherence to the instructions for the safe use of pesticides. Until these responsibilities are taken seriously, the production and consumption of agricultural produce will continue to be a health hazard rather than a benefit to both farm workers and consumers.

What Consumers Can Do

Consumers can limit their exposure to pesticides by taking a few precautions.

— Wash all produce. This will remove some, although not all pesticide residues on the surface of the produce.

— Peel produce when appropriate. This will also remove surface residue. However, systemic pesticides inside the produce cannot be eliminated in this way.

— Grow your own food. With just a small sunny area, you can plant a surprising amount of vegetables. If you need to control pests, organic substances can be used, instead of chemical ones.

— Avoid spraying household or garden pesticides if you have children or pregnant women in the house.

— Make this information known to gardeners, maids and others of your household involved in housekeeping, gardening, childcare and food preparation.

London underground faces safety challenge

By Jeffrey Heller
Reuter

LONDON — A year after a dropped match caused a fire that killed 31 people in a London underground station, fire safety experts are trying to put the train system on the right track.

"There is an urgent need to upgrade many, many areas in terms of safety," London fire chief Gerald Clarkson said after publication of an official report into the Nov. 18, 1987 blaze at King's Cross station.

London transport officials estimate at least £365 million (\$640 million) is needed to modernise the tube which began snaking its way under the city during Queen Victoria's reign.

The world's oldest underground system is used by 700 million passengers, both Londoners and tourists each year.

The disaster began at the end of an evening rush hour at King's Cross, London's busiest subway station. Someone stepped on to a wooden escalator leading from the Piccadilly line to a ticket hall, lit a cigarette and dropped the match, according to the report. Dirt and grease left to accumu-

late for years under the slats ignited, sending a blowtorch of flames up the escalator tunnel.

The report, the result of a 91-day inquiry, found that staff had not undergone training in firefighting or evacuation. Maps of King's Cross, a labyrinth of five underground lines used by 32,000 commuters an hour at peak periods, were nowhere to be found.

In the confusion, transport police directed people towards the flames.

"London underground did not guard against the unpredictability of fire... They genuinely believed that with passengers and staff acting as fire detectors there would be sufficient time to evacuate passengers safely," the report said.

Blamed by the inquiry for regarding fires as an occupational hazard, rather than taking proper measures to prevent them, the underground's two top officials resigned.

But relatives of the dead are incensed that a coroner's court has termed the deaths accidental and feel officials were called to account too late.

Some of the families are demanding London underground be prosecuted for manslaughter and have formed an "action committee" to press their case.

"For a whole year... we've been faced with a lot of people washing their hands of us, virtually saying it was nobody's fault and nobody was responsible," Sophie Tarasenko, who lost a brother in the fire, told reporters.

A scathing editorial in London's Evening Standard newspaper echoed the relatives' ire towards officials found negligent in ensuring a service used routinely by millions is safe.

"These are not simply passengers, human traffic or consumers," the newspaper said last week. "These are people, dependent for their lives and livelihoods on an underground system without which London as we know it simply could not function."

The inquiry, led by lawyer Douglas Fennell, made 157 recommendations that should keep underground maintenance workers busy for years.

They included the replacement of dozens of wooden escalators

with metal ones at a rate of six per year. All wooden side panels will be removed in favour of aluminium ones by mid-1989.

Escalator beat detectors, alarms and sprinklers should be installed under all mechanical stairways, the report said. It also called for station plans to be placed where they can be easily found.

The report recommended underground officials study the feasibility of establishing secondary escape routes. And smoking, already prohibited on trains, was banned in stations after the fire.

In a separate report, the fire brigade said other tube systems were far safer than London's.

Brigade officers who toured subways in Singapore, Tokyo, Brussels, Paris and Moscow found they already had secondary escape routes. Tokyo also had rolling steel shutters which divide passages and stop the spread of smoke.

Despite the perilous picture painted by the inquiry and crowded trains that have earned one heavily-travelled northern London route the nickname

"misery line," the London tube is still favoured by most commuters.

It is the fastest route around London, reaches its main airport, Heathrow, and ferries tourists to the main sites.

But for the King's Cross survivors, the underground is a nightmare.

"There was one night, I just freaked out totally," police constable Terry Bebbington, who tried to evacuate passengers, told the Evening Standard newspaper. "It's getting better now. Now it's mostly anger. I'm angry anyone could let that happen."

Psychologist David Thompson treated some of the disaster victims and said the policeman's reactions were typical.

"You find people can't sleep, they might be depressed, they fly off the handle. They might panic at the smell of smoke."

Steve Hanson, another transport policeman, cannot shake his horrific dreams.

"My own feelings about how I performed that night... will heal, but actually seeing people die won't," he said.

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OPEC chief sees problems with latest oil output accord

LONDON (R) — OPEC could face problems in implementing the oil producer group's latest agreement on production and prices, OPEC President Riwanu Lukman said in a television interview broadcast Wednesday.

OPEC's target price of \$18 a barrel would only be achieved over a period and it would take until the beginning of January before production fell to the 18.5 million barrels per day ceiling foreseen in the agreement reached in Vienna Monday, he said.

"There are going to be problems in implementation," Lukman, who is also Nigeria's oil minister, told Britain's Independent Channel Four Television station.

He said the United Arab Emirates, which produces about twice as much oil as the rest of the OPEC group, had a "special problem" in complying with the agreement.

"I am not going to excuse them in advance for violating," Lukman said in the interview recorded Tuesday.

"We hope that the advantages of complying and having a healthy market and new OPEC will be sufficient incentive for them to come along with us and comply along with all the other members," he said.

Lukman did not expect a quick rise in oil prices, currently around \$14 a barrel on the open market.

"We expect that prices will move back to \$18 gradually over a period of time," he said.

OPEC production, estimated by independent analysts at almost 23 million barrels daily, would

take time to fall. "It's impossible for us to chop the production down to 18.5 million barrels from tomorrow. It will take the better part of December up to the beginning of January before we see active production going down to 18.5 million," he said.

Analysts expect Gulf oil states to keep taps wide open until January.

Oil industry sources in the Gulf said Tuesday five Gulf oil states which together pump about two-thirds of OPEC output look set to keep the taps wide open until January when lower quotas take effect.

"There is no doubt that all Gulf producers will continue to pump (in December) as much as they did in November, as they have committed themselves to buyers," one industry executive said.

The sources said output by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) averaged about 15.8 million barrels per day (b/d) so far in November, up from 14.35 million b/d in October.

The five states were assigned 11.629 million b/d of the 18.5 million b/d output limit agreed by the 13-member Organisation of

Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Monday.

The deal reached in Vienna covers the first half of next year and aims to raise world oil prices by cutting OPEC's output by 20 per cent from its current 23 million b/d.

Kuwait Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said in Vienna Monday that production for December "would have been determined more or less by the nominations taken in around the 15th of the previous month."

He said contracts already signed would be honoured.

The industry sources said Kuwait's output was running at about 1.7 million b/d in November, unchanged from October and higher than its new quota of 1.037 million b/d.

Output by Saudi Arabia, OPEC's biggest producer, has averaged around 6.5 million b/d in November, against 5.65 million b/d in October and its new 4.524 million b/d quota, they said.

The sources said up to 10 ultra large crude carriers (ULCCs) hired by the kingdom would call at Saudi Arabia's oil terminals late in December for the second time in the last three months to take oil to the West.

Although Saudi Arabia's oil output looked set to be higher in December than its new quota, one oil industry executive said: "There is no doubt that the kingdom will lower its output to its new OPEC quota level Jan. 1."

But he said oil analysts were not so sure that the UAE would lower output to its new quota level of 988,000 b/d, despite a

statement Tuesday by Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba that UAE was committed to the pact.

The sources estimated UAE production at 1.9 million b/d in November, unchanged from October.

"The UAE signed the last OPEC agreement and is fully committed to what it signed, in practice and in spirit," Oteiba told Reuters in Baghdad.

He had told the official UAE news agency WAM in Vienna Monday that the UAE's new quota did not represent its official quota, but the UAE had promised to cooperate with OPEC.

The industry sources said the emirate of Dubai, the UAE's second biggest producer, did not seem to be bound by OPEC rules. Dubai had regularly kept production at around 400,000 b/d regardless of quota figures.

"It seems there is an understanding at OPEC that the 988,000 b/d quota would only apply to Abu Dhabi (the main UAE producer) from now on and Dubai will be disregarded as part of OPEC," an oil industry analyst said. But he said there was no confirmation of this.

The UAE said last June that its fair quota should be 1.5 million b/d.

Iran and Iraq, given quotas of 2.64 million b/d each after 12 days of hard bargaining in Vienna, are also likely to keep output high in December.

Iran pushed its output to around three million b/d in November from 2.4 million in October with a big sales drive, they said.

EC leaders seek to focus on Europe's world role

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) leaders are keen to skirt internal rows and focus on promoting the 12-nation group's position abroad when they meet for a two-day summit on the Greek island of Rhodes Friday.

In a declaration on the Community's global role, the heads of state and government will seek to allay fears that the EC's barrier-free internal market, due in place by 1993, will be a protectionist "fortress Europe."

EC leaders are not due to discuss the highly divisive issue of how far and how fast political and economic integration should go — a debate opened by Thatcher in September in a hard-hitting speech against the idea of a European union.

But diplomats said several issues that pit Thatcher against many of her colleagues were likely to come up when the summit reviews progress so far towards achieving its goal of a single market by 1993.

The main bones of contention are the so-called "social dimension" of the barrier-free market, such as worker protection laws, moves to narrow differences between national indirect tax rates and excise duties, and the abolition of border controls.

Thatcher has attacked the executive commission and other governments for pushing what she considers a socialist and corporatist programme. She favours free enterprise and deregulation.

Report yields new evidence of pick-up in U.S. inflation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy, held back by the summer drought, expanded at a moderate 2.6 per cent annual rate in the July-September quarter, the government said Tuesday.

At the White House, spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the latest report does not change "the basic economic picture" of moderate growth and steady inflation.

Inflation remains at about the second-quarter rate. And, after adjusting for the effects of the drought, the economy continues to grow at its long-term average pace, which is two to three per cent," he said.

However, the revisions to the GNP were about in line with economists' expectations and fit in with anticipation in the market that the U.S. Federal Reserve Board (FED) — the American central bank — will move soon to curb inflation by dampening growth with higher interest rates.

Major U.S. commercial banks Monday raised their prime lending rate to 10.5 per cent, the highest level since mid-1985. Economists expect a new round of increases as the Fed tries to restrain growth to a non-inflationary pace of two per cent to 2.5 per cent.

The Fed pushed up interest rates steadily from late March through early August. For a time, it appeared the strategy was working, as a number of statistical reports showed slower growth in August and September.

Government numbers released over the last three weeks, however, portray robust growth in

October, the first month of the fourth quarter.

"It's amazing how strong the momentum is now," said David Jones, an economist with Auerbach G. Lanston and Co., a government securities dealer. "We'll be starting the seventh year of an economic expansion, and the normal peacetime expansion lasts only three years."

Jones predicts growth will accelerate to an annual rate of about 3.5 per cent in the final three months of 1988, even with the aftereffects from the drought.

The Commerce Department said the performance of the gross national product (GNP), the broadest measure of economic health, slowed in the third quarter after growing at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent during the first six months of the year.

It was the slowest pace since the fourth quarter of 1986, when the economy grew at a sluggish 1.4 per cent rate.

The report, however, represents an upward revision from a preliminary estimate last month, which pegged growth at 2.2 per cent.

The department attributed the revision to a higher-than-expected rise in personal consumption expenditures, which account for nearly two-thirds of economic activity. They rose at an annual rate of four per cent in the third quarter, compared with an earlier estimate of 3.5 per cent.

Also, non-farm business inventories grew faster than originally thought. However, this could be a source of weakness in the future if consumer demand slackens and

manufacturers have to cut production as the inventories are sold off.

A price index tied to the GNP also proved more robust than was first estimated. The index, which reflects changing consumption patterns as well as prices, rose at an annual rate of 4.7 per cent, up from the first estimate of 4.4 per cent.

The second quarter soared at an even faster 5.5 per cent, the highest in nearly six years.

The Commerce Department said that without the drought, third-quarter growth would have been a strong 3.2 per cent and second-quarter growth would have been a brisk 3.9 per cent, rather than 3.0 per cent.

The two engines of economic growth in the first half of the year — exports and business investment — played less of a role in the third quarter.

Exports and imports both grew at an annual rate of 11.6 per cent. Because imports were growing from a larger base, however, the nation's inflation-adjusted trade deficit as measured by the GNP worsened slightly for the first time in a year.

Business investment grew at an annual rate of 4.8 per cent in the third quarter, down from 15.0 per cent in the second quarter.

James Annable, an economist with First National Bank of Chicago, predicted that exports and investment spending will rebound, in part because of the continued fall of the dollar, which hit a 40-year low last week against the Japanese yen.

France faces long battle with strikers

PARIS (R) — The French government mobilised troops Wednesday to rescue frustrated commuters and Prime Minister Michel Rocard promised firm action as a transport workers' dispute crippled Paris for a third day.

Some 400 army lorries and 1,500 troops were drafted into the capital to help to ease chaos caused by the strike for higher pay.

It was the first time for 17 years that troops had been called in to counter action by transport workers.

A government spokesman said Rocard told the weekly cabinet meeting he was not seeking confrontation with unions but that he would act firmly.

Transport Minister Michel Delebarre said the government planned to add 1,500 private buses to the emergency operation.

The army lorries, some brought from a base in West Germany, shuttled Parisians from suburbs to railway stations, the passengers bundling on metal benches against driving rain.

But they were not enough to prevent traffic again snarling the city.

The RER suburban railway network has ground to a halt. Only half the city's buses are running and services on the underground metro system were reduced to fall foul of the strike.

Delebarre said the government would not give in to a "small guerrilla group" of strikers, a clear reference to the action by the communist-dominated CGT Union.

In parliament later he reiterated the government's tough stance, saying the government supported traditional workers' rights.

"But the best way to support the right to strike is to avoid devaluing it... with illegal action," he said.

Nurses, teachers, customs officers and other public service workers also demonstrated against what they said was Rocard's refusal to raise their salaries to match those of the private sector.

The transport dispute centres on a demand for a monthly pay rise of 1,000 francs (\$166). The state-funded transport authority has offered 150 francs (\$25).

Government sources said Rocard's minority government called in the troops to head off charges that he was soft on trade unions and was endangering the country's fragile economic recovery.

Egypt hikes oil export prices

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt Tuesday sharply increased its oil-export prices for the first half of December by \$1.75 a barrel for all blends, a senior oil ministry official said.

Hammad Ayoub, director of overseas trade, said the new prices will be effective Dec. 1-15. It is the largest price increase for Egyptian oil in at least three years.

The Egyptian decision came on the heels of an accord by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) curbing production levels, in an effort to shore up sagging prices cutting back on the world oil glut.

Ayoub said the new prices will be \$12.75 a barrel for the top-grade Gulf of Suez, \$11.90 for Belayim, \$10.75 for Ras Badran and \$10.45 a barrel for Ras Ghareb.

All prices are \$1.75 a barrel higher than prices for the last two weeks of November, which represented a per-barrel cut of 30 cents from Nov. 1-15 prices.

Egypt produces 870,000 barrels of crude oil daily, exporting almost half and consuming the rest domestically. It is not an OPEC member but is broadly guided by the group's policies.

Oil prices had been falling steadily for months because of the global glut. President Hosni Mubarak has said plummeting prices have cost Egypt more than \$1 billion in revenues this year.

Conable denounces barriers to goods from Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barber Conable of the World Bank has denounced barriers in the United States and other industrial countries that prevent the Third World from selling their goods.

Conable, a former member of the U.S. Congress, heads the organisation that is the biggest source of international aid. His bank, owned by 151 countries, lends the Third World about \$20 billion a year.

He spoke to reporters Tuesday in advance of a major meeting in Montreal, Canada, next week. Representatives of nearly 100 governments will review progress toward dismantling trade barriers.

Conable said the aid given or lent to Third World countries was only half as much as they could earn if they were permitted to sell

their goods freely to the donor countries.

"If you were to eliminate all international aid and all trade-distorting obstacles, you would have twice as good a situation in terms of resource transfers for the developing world as you've got now," he said.

He estimated the annual value of aid from all industrial countries at \$35 billion a year, while their trade barriers prevented exports to them worth \$60 billion. That was only the primary effect of the barriers, because additional trade would stimulate Third World growth, he added.

Conable distributed blame widely.

"The Caribbean countries alone have lost three quarters — over \$250 million worth — of their annual sugar exports to the United States..." he said in a

statement he will submit in Montreal.

"Argentina and Uruguay... are clearly among the world's lowest cost producers (of wheat and beef). Yet their share of the world market has dropped from 11 per cent to three per cent... while the European Community became the world's largest exporter," he noted.

"Japanese protection has pushed the domestic rice price to well over five times... world price levels, thereby closing off sales... by such exporters as Thailand and Pakistan," he said.

The problem of the Third World's \$1.2 trillion debt is not up for discussion in Montreal. Conable said it is clearly related to trade since whatever may be done about debt, it will need to sell more goods.

Lawson pledges no change in British economic policy

LONDON (Agencies) — Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson Tuesday dismissed opposition charges that Britain has a trade balance crisis, but acknowledged he is concerned about rising inflation.

"The risk of a resurgence of inflation is the only real problem facing the British economy today," Lawson told the House of Commons.

He added there was "no such thing as a balance of payments crisis," but warned there was "no alternative" to hikes in interest rates, now at 13 per cent.

Lawson, whose credibility has been battered by a soaring trade deficit and rising inflation, Tuesday pledged to continue his policy of using high interest rates to tackle Britain's economic difficulties.

Lawson brushed aside an attack by the left-wing opposition Labour Party and told the House of Commons: "There will be no change in policy... there is no alternative to the use of interest rates to keep the economy on course — and it works."

He raised the British bank base interest rate to 13 per cent from 12 per cent Friday after the trade deficit hit a record £2.43 billion (\$4.45 billion) in October.

He has gradually raised the rate from 7.5 per cent in June to try to curb an unforeseen consumer boom which has flooded Britain with imports and pushed inflation up to 6.4 per cent.

It was the second time in a month that Lawson was forced to make a major defence in parliament of his policies and he seemed to get less warm support from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

She dodged an opposition invitation to repeat her earlier description of his strategy as brilliant but said: "The nation is doing very well as I am sure the House will demonstrate tonight by a massive majority behind the chancellor."

The future of the economy, which Thatcher says she has transformed, has become an increasing headache for her government as a result of missed targets.

Lawson said inflation — up from 4.1 per cent a year ago to 6.4 per cent and expected to reach seven per cent in 1989 — posed a greater threat to the

economy than a record trade deficit of £2.4 billion (\$4.4 billion) in October.

Britain has the highest inflation rate of any major Western economy.

Lawson said that after the Oct. 19, 1987, stock market crash, he judged that recession was a greater risk than inflation and, like other big industrial countries, loosened monetary controls.

"Given the balance of risks at the time, I believe I was fully justified in doing what I did," Lawson said.

Lawson said the anti-inflation drive included keeping the British pound high, adding, "Sterling is strong, and I am determined that it shall stay strong for the indefinite future."

Lawson said private-sector investment was at a record 16 per cent of gross domestic product, and Britain's record financial reserves and net foreign assets were second only to those of Japan. This meant the trade gap was readily financeable, the chancellor said.

The opposition Labour Party charged that Lawson had wrought the rise by engineering a short-term consumer boom and

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Wednesday Nov. 30, 1988 | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Central Bank official rates | | | | | |
| | Buy | Sell | French franc | 78.5 | 78.9 |
| U.S. dollar | 465.0 | 467.0 | Japanese yen (for 100) | 381.7 | 383.6 |
| Pound Sterling | 838.4 | 862.7 | Dutch guilder | 237.8 | 239.0 |
| Deutschemark | 268.1 | 269.4 | Swedish crown | 77.1 | 77.5 |
| Swiss franc | 320.7 | 322.3 | Italian lira (for 100) | 36.2 | 36.4 |
| | | | Belgian franc (for 10) | 128.1 | 128.7 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

| LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday. | | | |
|--|---------------|------------------|--|
| One Sterling | 1.8470/80 | U.S. dollar | |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.1880/90 | Canadian dollar | |
| | 1.7350/60 | Deutschemark | |
| | 1.9565/75 | Dutch guilders | |
| | 1.4328/35 | Swiss francs | |
| | 36.31/34 | Belgian francs | |
| | 5.9250/80 | French francs | |
| | 128.1/128.2 | Italian lire | |
| | 121.95/122.05 | Japanese yen | |
| | 6.0210/60 | Swedish crowns | |
| | 6.4790/840 | Norwegian crowns | |
| | 6.6800/50 | Danish crowns | |
| One ounce of gold | 421.10/421.50 | U.S. dollars | |

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed easier with activity in takeover stocks like Cadbury Schweppes providing the only highlights in otherwise dull trading. The All Ordinaries index fell one point to 1,470.9.

TOKYO — Share prices rose strongly on heavy buying of large capital issues, with late afternoon rises among financials taking the most-watched index to a new closing high. The Nikkei index rose 260.60 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 29,578.90.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks rode Tokyo's surge and a boom on the local property market to close higher. The Hang Seng index added 26.62 to 2,659.30.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed marginally higher on thin and lethargic trading. The Straits Times industrial average rose 2.12 to 1,005.49.

BOMBAY — Share prices on the Bombay Stock Exchange rose for the second day with sustained institutional buying. Associated Cement gained 19 rupees to 401.

FRANKFURT — The dollar's stability above 1.73 marks and Wall Street's higher Tuesday close helped revitalise trading and lift West German shares to a higher close. The DAX index closed at 1,275.99, 13.44 points or 1.1 per cent above Tuesday's close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly higher as most registered stock rallied on high turnover. The All Share Swiss index closed at 921.7 points, 4.2 above Tuesday's close.

PARIS — French share prices continued their firmer trend in quiet trading at midsession with many operators already sidelined ahead of the year-end. The 50-share bourse indicator posted a 0.24 per cent gain at 1200 GMT.

LONDON — A £100 million sell programme, which dealers said was triggered as the FTSE index approached 1,800, saw leading prices well of their highs in late trading. At 1540 GMT the FTSE 100 stood 7.4 points higher at 1,794.3.

NEW YORK — Blue chips clung to small gains in quiet morning trading as many investors went to the sidelines ahead of Friday's November jobs report. The Dow rose three to 2104.

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Bangladeshis were barely recovering from the effects of devastating floods when a cyclone hit the country Wednesday (Sygma photo)

Cyclone hits Bangladesh; 400 killed, but toll may rise

DHAKA (R) — At least 400 people were killed as the worst cyclone for nearly 20 years battered Bangladesh and officials said Wednesday they feared the toll would be much higher.

State-run Bangladesh Television said at least 400 people were confirmed dead and reports were still coming from remote areas pounded by a huge tidal wave in the storm's wake.

It said more than 200 people died in the Khulna district alone and 102 bodies had been recovered.

The cyclone, the worst since a

1970 storm which killed half a million people, also devastated coastal areas of India's West Bengal state leaving at least 30 dead according to latest reports.

The storm roared across the Bay of Bengal Tuesday night, sinking a Singapore-registered freighter with a crew of 19 as it raced for safety.

Officials in Bangladesh's main port of Chittagong said the storm sent out a distress signal before it sank about 200 kilometres from the coast.

Lloyd's shipping agents in London said a search was still going

on for the missing crewmen. It said earlier reports they had been rescued by a British vessel, Tencious, were mistaken.

Bangladesh's State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Kazi Firoze Rashid said at least 100 people had been drowned by a tidal wave in Bhola. Debris killed another 100 in Satkhira.

"The grim picture is beginning to emerge," he said as the casualty toll mounted.

Weather officials said the cyclone, with wind speeds of 165 kilometres per hour, was more powerful than the 1970 storm.

Benazir Bhutto one breath away from premiership

Pakistani parliament meets

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan's newly-elected parliament convened Wednesday with populist leader Benazir Bhutto becoming the first woman to occupy the majority leader's seat.

Bhutto, 35, and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged strongest from the Nov. 16 elections, the country's first free elections in over a decade. That set the stage for the world's first female Muslim leader.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is to designate a prime minister Thursday night. Under the constitution, the president must choose a prime minister from the National Assembly who is most likely to survive a confidence vote.

Justice S.A. Nusrat, chief election commissioner for the Nov. 16 national and Nov. 19 provincial balloting, led some 115 National Assembly members in the oath of office Wednesday.

Then Bhutto, clad in a pale green native dress with brown shawl and yellow scarf, rose as the first to sign the parliamentary

role book as her PPP group stood in applause.

Her mother, Nusrat Bhutto, gave her a hug as they exchanged terms at the book. The younger Bhutto flashed a broad grin and blushed as she took her seat.

Absent from the assembly was her main rival, conservative leader Nawaz Sharif, in an apparent gesture of defeat.

Despite powerful ties to the late President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, Sharif's eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA) polled only 55 seats against the PPP's 93. Alliance sources have said Sharif was considering sticking to politics in powerful Punjab province where his group did the best in the local polls.

The full legislature will comprise 237 members after filling 20 women's seats and holding by-elections for others. The rest of

the seats in the November elections went to independents and minor parties.

The elections were the first fought by political parties since Zia, who died in a plane crash in August, overthrew Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977.

"It feels a little strange to be here," Bhutto told reporters as she entered the white marble National Assembly building in Islamabad. An aide brushed away a tear of emotion.

"Coming through the halls today, I realised how important the struggle had been to reach parliament," she said. "Although there are many restrictions, we are still hopeful to bring change."

Parliamentary officials led her straight to the front row seat last occupied by former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Jumejo, sacked in May by Zia. Her mother Nusrat sat beside her.

The four provincial assemblies were also sworn in on Wednesday. In the Sind assembly deputies said prayers for Zulfikar

Ali Bhutto, who was hanged in 1979 on disputed murder conspiracy charges.

Benazir Bhutto assumed her father's political mantle, campaigning against Zia throughout years of imprisonment, exile and impotent opposition.

Zia's death robbed her of personal revenge but removed the main obstacle to her coming to power. Her father's legacy proved strong enough to give her partial victory at the polls.

The deputies also voted to fill the 20 places reserved for women in the assembly. The main parties had put up their candidates but results were not expected until later Wednesday.

The new parliament started on a sour note with a dispute between outgoing Parliamentary Affairs Minister Wasim Sajjad and Election Commissioner Nusrat.

Nusrat insisted that Sajjad, who is a senator, had no right to be on the floor of the lower house and forced him to leave.

Writer breaks into Redford's home

PLEASANT GROVE, Utah (AP) — An aspiring screenwriter got a jail sentence instead of a big break for venturing into actor-director Robert Redford's estate to make a pitch for his movie script. Kevin S. Stratford, 23, of California, said he wanted Redford to read his script and was taking it to his home in Provo Canyon when he was arrested. Stratford pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of criminal trespassing Monday. Justice of the Peace Vergil D. Peterson gave him a jail term of 190 days but suspended all but 10 provided Stratford stays away from the property.

Swede, Spaniard win film award

BERLIN (AP) — Swedish actor Max Von Sydow and Carmen Maura of Spain have won awards for best actor and actress handed out during the first annual European Film Award. Von Sydow won for his role in "Felix, the Conqueror" by Danish director Bille August. Maura won for her role in "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," directed by Pedro Almodovar. The winners received the "Felix," a statuette equivalent to the Oscar. Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski's "A Short Film About Killing," which details the murder of a taxi driver, won the best film category.

Shy girl wins Miss World contest

SANDSTONE, MINNESOTA (R) — Residents of Sandstone remember Linda Petrusdottir as friendly and fun-loving, pretty but modest and too shy to appear in the school play. It turns out the 18-year-old Icelandic native has won \$54,000 for parading in a bathing suit. Petrusdottir, who was an American Field Service exchange student in Sandstone during the 1986-87 school year, was crowned Miss World in London Nov. 17. A blonde with big blue eyes and strong features, Petrusdottir, 18, was judged most beautiful in a bathing suit and evening gown among 84 competitors. She won \$54,000 in cash, a new car, a luxurious wardrobe, world travel and modeling contracts. Friends say a year of official appearances could change one thing about Petrusdottir — her shyness. "It's hard not to be confident when you're Miss World," Bonnin said.

Hospital specialises in llamas

NAPA, CALIFORNIA (AP) — It is not always easy for llama ranchers to tell when one of their fat, woolly animals is pregnant, but a human hospital is cashing in on finding out. "We're the llama pregnancy factory of the world," said Glenn Lee, head of outpatient laboratory services for Queen of the Valley hospital. The hospital performs up to 60 llama pregnancy tests a month for breeders as far away as Louisiana, Texas and Canada. Lee said. The hospital estimates that it now performs five times as many tests for llamas as it does for humans. Llamas, pretty-eyed long-necked members of the camel family, are popular as pet and pack animals. With baby llamas selling for \$10,000 or more, people who raise the creatures like to know as soon as possible when their animals are expecting.

Cousteau elected to French Academy

PARIS (AP) — Jacques Cousteau, French underwater explorer, filmmaker and ardent defender of the world's waterways, has been elected to the prestigious French Academy. The 53-year-old academy, whose 40 members are known as "immortals," also elected Greek scholar Jacqueline de Romilly, only the second woman after the late novelist Marguerite Yourcenar, to don the famed green and gold sash. A professor at the College de France and founder of the chair in Greek civilisation which she currently occupies, de Romilly, 75, is the author of some 15 works on Greek philosophy and literature. Cousteau, 78, the author of some 20 books and 90 feature films and television documentaries, has enabled millions of landlocked readers and viewers to discover the mysteries of a previously unknown universe beneath the seas. He is the co-inventor of the aqua-lung and the developer of other technological innovations such as a one-man jet-propelled submarine and the first manned underwater colonies.

South African segregation moves kick up huge furore

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — A nationwide furor over segregation intensified Wednesday after a right-wing town council voted to consider a curfew for blacks and another removed a portrait of President P.W. Botha from its chamber.

The Conservative Party, which depicts Botha's limited reforms as capitulation to the black majority, has provoked the controversy by implementing its strict segregationist policies this week in some of the dozens of municipalities it won in local elections Oct. 26.

Three towns in Transvaal province — Carletonville, Boksburg and Brakpan — have voted in recent days to ban blacks from public facilities that were integrated in recent years.

The Carletonville Council went

a step further Tuesday night, ordering a study of whether a curfew should be imposed barring blacks from the mining town at night.

Brakpan Council resolved not to re-erect the old English and Afrikaans language signs "Whites only — siege blankets."

Instead municipal officials will patrol facilities telling blacks they are now committing an offence by strolling in the park or using a public lavatory.

In Springs, a small industrial city about 40 kilometres east of Johannesburg, the Conservative-controlled council voted Tuesday to remove a photographic portrait of Botha from its chamber because councillors did not regard him as their leader. The photograph was replaced with the municipal coat of arms.

In one ward in Boksburg, voters went to the polls Wednesday to fill a town council vacancy in a by-election viewed as a referendum on the segregation issue.

A Conservative Party candidate was competing against independent backed by Botha's National Party, which has denounced the restoration of "petty apartheid" even though it has made no moves to repeal the legislation allowing segregation of local amenities.

The Conservatives' moves to segregate facilities have drawn criticism from businessmen and sports officials, as well from anti-apartheid leaders. In Boksburg, blacks have begun a consumer boycott of white-owned businesses and some have withdrawn their accounts from local banks.



Oliver North

WASHINGTON (R) — The judge presiding over the Iran-contra case Tuesday dismissed one criminal conspiracy charge

Judge upholds all but one Iran-contra charges

against fired White House aide Oliver North but upheld the rest of the sweeping indictment against him.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell rejected North's motions seeking to dismiss the two central conspiracy charges stemming from the secret sale of U.S. weapons to Iran and the diversion of the profits to the Nicaraguan contra rebels in 1985-86, when Congress had banned military assistance to the contras.

The judge dismissed the third conspiracy count charging mail fraud, ruling that it was essentially redundant.

The judge's action meant that North faces trial on a total of 14 criminal counts which carry a maximum penalty of 75 years in prison and \$3.5 million in fines.

Gesell has yet to set a trial date, but has said it could start by the end of January unless President Reagan intervenes in the case.

North and three other defendants have been charged with engaging in a broad criminal conspiracy stemming from the Iran-contra affair and then covering up their activities. North will be the first of the defendants to go on trial.

Looming over the case is the possibility that Reagan will pardon the defendants before he leaves office January 20 or that he will stop the prosecution because national security secrets would be revealed.

The White House has said repeatedly that Reagan believes the legal process should run its course.

Tower choice triggers public battle

WASHINGTON (R) — A fierce and unusually public battle is being waged over President-elect Bush's choice for defence secretary, with controversy focusing on the front-runner's sex life, drinking habits and finances.

The fight over former Senator John Tower of Texas as manager of the \$300 billion-a-year Pentagon apparatus has been displayed across front pages and in television news shows since Bush won the presidential race Nov. 8.

It has been a highly unusual fray between anonymous factions for and against Tower, 63, who led the three-man Tower Commission which probed President Reagan's Iran-contra scandal.

Controversy has been aroused partly by the former Senator's active campaigning for the Pentagon job and stirred by a host of enemies who either dislike him personally or doubt his managerial abilities.

A well-placed Congressional



John Tower

his nomination as defence secretary as soon as Bush won the election.

Then reports began circulating in Congress about Tower's personal life, generated in part by a bitter divorce fight last year in which court papers filed by his wife charged he spent money on other women.

Bush has remained above the fray, but a Bush source, citing a

flurry of published reports depicting Tower as a womanizer and drinker, said: "John is his own worst enemy."

Allegations have also circulated in print from unidentified sources of improper use of thousands of dollars in unspent campaign funds after Tower's quit the Senate in 1984.

Tower supporters denied any impropriety.

Meanwhile Bush, seeking to create bipartisan goodwill for his administration, has invited black leader Jesse Jackson to lunch Wednesday and was to meet Michael Dukakis and other top Democrats this week.

Bush was to meet Jackson, the flamboyant black preacher who was runner-up for the Democratic presidential nomination, over lunch Wednesday. Aides called it a fence-mending session.

While seeking the nomination Jackson accused Bush of forsaking the dreams of Martin Luther King, saying in a Harlem speech: "George Bush promises a continuation of the past years — against the enforcement of civil rights for all Americans."

Ethnic row spills over to Moscow debate

MOSCOW (R) — Ethnic tensions spilled over Wednesday into the Soviet parliament where Armenia's president denounced the leadership of Azerbaijan and Estonia defended its rebellion against Kremlin control.

Leaders of the two troubled Soviet republics spoke on the second day of a special session discussing Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's proposed constitutional reforms that would give real power to a new parliament and executive president.

Departing from the reform issue, Armenian President Grant Vaskanyan accused Azerbaijani leaders of having encouraged last

week's ethnic bloodshed in the Transcaucasus by failing to condemn anti-Armenian riots earlier this year in the city of Sumgait.

"If the people of Azerbaijan had shown political maturity and civic wisdom they would have condemned those events in Sumgait as a crime against another nation," Vaskanyan said.

"Then there would not have been events like those in Kirovabad and Nakhichevan," two areas in Azerbaijan that saw the worst of last week's clashes.

Thirty-two people, most of them Armenians, were killed in Sumgait in three days of rioting at the end of February sparked by a

dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over control of the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

At least 10 people were killed last week in the two republics as violence flared again. Many areas of the two republics are now under military administration as authorities seek to prevent more bloodshed.

With Gorbachev looking on, Vaskanyan said Azerbaijan's President Suleiman Tatlief obviously had disregarded the Kremlin chief's call for a peaceful end to the ethnic feud.

Tatlief told the Supreme Soviet, or parliament, Tuesday that continued Armenian de-

mands for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, where 75 per cent of the population is Armenian, had sparked the latest violence.

"I am at a total loss at such incorrect accusations towards a neighbouring republic," Vaskanyan said.

"It is evident that Tatlief did not draw any conclusions and is categorically rejecting any compromise," he said.

The chamber of 1,500 deputies fell silent during Vaskanyan's speech then gave him a substantial round of applause.

Tatlief's speech was applauded only by the Azerbaijanis and a few central Asian deputies.

Infighting threatens Burmese opposition

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's three top opposition figures engaged in a tense face-off Tuesday after one of the them said he was forming a separate party, political sources said.

They said the move threatened the fragile unity of the National League for Democracy established with the support of student leaders after the bloody army takeover in September that crushed a national uprising for democracy.

The sources, contacted by telephone from Bangkok, said the split was initiated by Aung Gyi, a former brigadier-general once closely associated with longtime leader Ne Win but who strongly attacked the repressive socialist government in the last year.

The league was formed in the heady days of the mass street protests.

Aung Gyi was named chairman, with former defence

minister General Tin Oo as vice-chairman and Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of national hero Aung San, as secretary.

A spokesman for Aung Gyi said he formed the Union National Democracy Party in the last few days after failing to persuade Aung San Suu Kyi to expel eight senior members of the league who he considered communists.

The spokesman said the union was in the preparatory stage. It had not yet been registered with the elections commission set up by the military government to oversee promised general elections, he said.

"It is intended to support the league, just to support it," the spokesman said when asked if the union's formation would undermine the league.

He did not explain how the new group would support the league, the best-known and

biggest of 148 parties registered with the commission in the last two months.

Many of the parties were formed simply to facilitate discussions and meetings in spite of restrictions under the military council.

Aung Gyi's spokesman denied the three were split. "They will fight to the end," he said.

But Aung Gyi "wants the party to be clean," he added referring to any members he believes are communists.

A Western diplomat in Rangoon who has closely followed the political developments said Aung Gyi could be creating conditions for a solo bid for power, with the support of some of his former army colleagues.

"He probably thinks he has a better chance if he goes it alone," he said. "He is the man the army could have some

confidence in."

He said many supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi, particularly young people, may be relieved if Aung Gyi quits her movement because of his close links with the military.

Aung San Suu Kyi was not available for comment Tuesday, but aides said she was in meetings with Tin Oo. A spokesman for Tin Oo declined to comment.

The diplomat said a purge of workers and officials who took part in the rallies was still continuing. About 207 people had been sacked from a state-run arms factory. Many of its workers paraded in uniforms during the protests.

University lecturers were also receiving questionnaires about who took part in rallies and whether they joined an unsanctioned teachers union.

"People are becoming just more and more despondent," the diplomat said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'Marcos fit for arraignment'

HONOLULU (R) — A doctor appointed by the U.S. government has declared former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos well enough to travel to New York to face arraignment on racketeering charges, a spokesman for Marcos said Tuesday. The spokesman, Gemmo Trinidad, said Marcos had been notified of the evaluation of Dr. Francis Weld but had not yet received an official report. Marcos has previously been excused on grounds of ill health from appearing in New York to face charges that he and his wife Imelda looted the Philippines of \$103 million and then defrauded U.S. banks of \$167 million. The Marcoses were indicted by a grand jury in October in New York on fraud and conspiracy charges involving the secret purchase of four Manhattan buildings.

Soviet chess player granted visa

FRANKFURT (R) — A top Soviet woman chess player who secretly married the American team captain during a tournament in Greece was granted a U.S. immigration visa Tuesday, a U.S. consulate spokesman said. Yelena Akhmilovskaya, number two in the Soviet team at the World Chess Olympiad in Salonika, married John Donaldson Friday and they flew to Frankfurt Saturday. "Mrs. Donaldson was received her entry document to the United States," consulate spokesman Craig Springer said. "I don't know what their plans are but I would imagine they are heading for the States." The couple, both 31, made the visa application Monday. "Even though their situation is certainly unusual, they received objective treatment, the same as anyone else would," Springer said.

Island picked for superpower meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Governors Island, a coast guard installation in New York harbour, is the tentative choice for next Dec. 7 meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush, according to U.S. officials. The island was recommended Tuesday by U.S. and Soviet inspectors. On Monday they had examined the island and the only alternative choice for the lunch meeting, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Governors Island was picked for security reasons, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The meeting will be held after Gorbachev addresses the U.N. General Assembly. It is the only superpower session planned during the Soviet leader's visit and is expected to range over several subjects, including the suspended Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. The United States is seeking

reassurances the Soviets will complete withdrawal by Feb. 15.

Ortega extends ceasefire

MEXICO CITY (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Tuesday his government would extend a unilateral ceasefire in its war with the U.S.-backed contra rebels to the end of December. Ortega told a news conference here the ceasefire, in effect since April, would be extended for a month despite what he claimed were repeated violations by the rebels. "The ceasefire expires tomorrow and we are prepared to extend it a month more," said Ortega, who is in Mexico for the Dec. 1 inauguration of President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari. He said, however, that the ceasefire was being systematically violated by the contras and called for an international commission established by a regional peace accord to aid in supervising the ceasefire.

U.N. extends Hocke's term

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Jean-Pierre Hocke will serve for a second three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 1989, the General Assembly decided Tuesday. Hocke, a Swiss national, was previously director of operational activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The assembly also approved a second three-year term beginning Jan. 1 for Kenneth Daddie, a Ghanaian, as secretary general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In both cases the assembly endorsed without a vote recommendations by Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar.

Peron to stay in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Former-President Isabel Peron said Tuesday she will stay in Argentina for good after her surprise return last month to her homeland for the first time since 1984. "I was happy in Spain (but) I'm Argentine and this is a country I love very much," Peron, widow of the late Juan Peron, told the local Mitre radio station. Peron, whose full name is Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, ruled Argentina from the death in 1974 of Juan Peron, elected president three times, until she was ousted in a military coup in March 1976. The military held her under house arrest until 1981 when she was allowed to leave the country. She went to Spain. Peron said she had been thinking for some time about returning to Argentina for good.